■ METRO / A22

'Johnny Midnight' shot in Las Piñas office; grudge angle eyed

■ WORLD / A12

CIA claims Fidel Castro has Parkinson's disease based on studies

■ BUSINESS / B1

10-month deficit 26% lower at P115.5 billion

■ ENTERTAINMENT / A2-2

PDI's man in Hollywood meets up with 'greatest actress of her generation'

Bird flu, terrorism, poverty on GMA plate at Apec meet

By Christine O. Avendaño *in Manila*
and Christian V. Esguerra
in Busan, South Korea

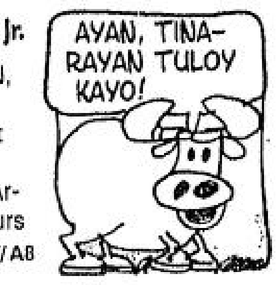
THE BIRD FLU VIRUS, TERRORISM AND poverty are the "three key areas of concern" that the Philippines will push for at the 13th Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec)

BIRD/ A8

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Unkempt garden, dirty toilet infuriate Gloria

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.


AYAN, TINA-RAYAN TULOY KAYO!

AN UNKEMPT GARDEN, moss-covered statues and a restroom without toilet paper infuriated President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday just hours

UNKEMPT/ A8

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph
Friday, November 18, 2005 ★★ 15 sections / Vol. 20 / No. 343 P18
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Finger-pointing begins

WINDSWEPT. President Arroyo arrives at Gimhae Air Base in South Korea on a cold, windy Thursday to attend the 21-country 13th Apec leaders' meeting in Busan. At right is the President's daughter Luli.

BULLIT MARQUEZ/AP

DFA now seeks custody of 6 GIs 17 days after rape

By Juliet Labog-Javellana, Volt Contreras and Nikko Dizon *in Manila*
and Tonette Orejas, *PDI Central Luzon Desk*

PHILIPPINE OFFICIALS WERE FINGER-POINTING YESterday on who was responsible for six US Marines accused of rape being under US Embassy custody, prompting lawmakers to slam them for negligence and to call for a revision of the RP-US Visiting Forces Agreement.

Foreign Undersecretary Rafael Seguis told the legislative oversight committee on the VFA that the Department of Foreign Affairs was "in consultations with the US Embassy on the turnover of custody of the suspected US military personnel."

The bicameral panel yesterday sought clarification of VFA provisions concerning jurisdiction and custody of the Americans accused of raping a 22-year-old Filipino woman on Nov. 1 at the Subic Bay Freeport in Zambales at the conclusion of counterterrorism exercises in the Philippines.

During the hearing, Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez was asked to explain why the Americans were turned over immediately to the US authorities. *(See related story on Page A4.)*

Gonzalez said he came to know of the incident when he got a call from President Macapagal-Arroyo on Nov. 2.

"And the only order she made was 'see to it to protect the dignity of our country,'" Gonzalez said.

Gonzalez said he later received a telephone call from Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita informing him about the Subic incident and asking him to immediately call retired Gen. Jose Calimlim, deputy administrator of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA).

"He told me his office had at that point custody of the American service people and he said the captain of the ship, whose rank was commodore, was demanding custody because the ship was

FINGER-POINTING/ A21

Fertilizer probe opens more cans of worms

By Philip C. Tubeza

IT JUST GOT CURIOUSER AND CURIOUSER.

At the resumption of the Senate probe of the P728-million fertilizer fund, the assistant provincial treasurer of Eastern Samar said the provincial government did not receive "a single drop" of fertilizer although P6.5 million from the Ginintuang Masaganang Ani (GMA) program had been released for the province.

The company that was supposed to deliver fertilizer to the province turned out to be a vegetable store in Caloocan City.

The fund was meant solely for farm inputs but was allegedly diverted to boost President Macapagal-Arroyo's election campaign in 2004.

Former Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin also testified that former Agriculture Undersecretary Jocelyn "Joc-joc" Bolante should be able to answer questions about the alleged scam.

In her first testimony, Boncodin said Bolante should be asked about the controversial fund releases because he was the one who had asked for them.

FERTILIZER/ A7

GMA wary of FVR, JDV, says paper

By Norman Bordadora

SPECIAL REPORT

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO seems more wary of her friends than her foes, if the annotations on the political security situationer "New Threats to Philippine Democracy" are any indication.

The handwritten marginal notes, said to have been dictated by Ms Arroyo to a secretary, make it appear that she wanted former President Fidel V. Ramos watched closely and Speaker Jose de Venecia replaced. *(See report on Page A21.)*

De Venecia's leadership was recently challenged—unsuccessfully—by Surigao del Norte Rep. Prospero Pichay. Both men are stalwarts of the ruling Lakas-CMD and staunch allies of Ms Arroyo.

"What happened to De Venecia in the House was one of the things that convinced me these marginal notes were for real, that they were the President's thoughts," former Sen. Francisco Tatad told the INQUIRER.

Tatad gave the INQUIRER a copy of the document, which was dated Sept. 9 but was reportedly presented to Ms Arroyo and her Cabinet by her security advisers on Oct. 5. He said it had come from a "friendly source" in Malacañang.

The copy bore annotations that, Tatad said, quoting his source, were dictated by Ms Arroyo after the Cabinet briefing. The annotations indicated that, among other things, Ms Arroyo was considering exit scenarios including resignation.

But Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye yesterday dismissed the paper as "a

GMA WARY/ A21

Blood, sweat and tears for P5,000-a-night tips

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

(Second of three parts)

SPECIAL REPORT

SAITAMA, JAPAN—NO DOUBT ABOUT it, Filipino entertainers, like the resident dancers of the Tres Bien Stage Club, make a lot of money.

The dancers, most of whom are referred to as "new half" (because they have male genitalia and silicone breasts), shake hands with the club's customers after each of the three one-hour shows a night and come away with ¥10,000 (or P5,000) in tips alone.

Then there are the gifts that many customers give their favorite entertainers, whose beauty and toned bodies can put the average Filipino woman to shame.

The customers, mostly middle-aged men and women, come bearing doughnuts, dinners in bento boxes, candies, bath towels and must-have Marlboro cigarettes, and (for the lucky ones) Dom Perignon champagne and Louis Vuitton or Gucci bags.

But the Tres Bien Stage Club dancers, and the rest of some 80,000 Filipino entertainers making a living in Japan, pay for the ¥1,000 notes and designer bags they receive with their blood, sweat and tears.

"The mark of Tres Bien," said

BLOOD/ A8

CELIA DIAZ-LAUREL poses in front of her late husband's photograph by Bob's.

Doy: 'The man who gave way'

By Fernando del Mundo

THE DIARY MYSTERIOUSLY surfaced two days after the urn containing Salvador H. Laurel's ashes was buried at the Libingan ng Mga Bayani in Makati City.

In it, the former Vice President, foreign secretary and senator provides a glimpse of the tumultuous events just before and after the first fateful People Power revolution.

The peaceful uprising nearly two decades ago ousted the dictator Ferdinand Marcos and catapulted Corazon Aquino to power.

With the diary and notes from voluminous documents, his widow, Celia Diaz-Laurel, cobbled a book titled "Doy Laurel."

DOY DIARY/ A21

Lea stars but MiG rocks opening of Ad Congress

TONEE DESPOJO/CEBU DAILY NEWS

"I CAN'T SING and I can hardly dance," keynote speaker Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala tells Ad Congress delegates on a high after Ayesa's rocking. But he launches Globe's 3G cell phone.

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

CEBU CITY—INTERNATIONALly acclaimed Filipino singer Lea Salonga may have been the bigger star, but it was Philippine-born Australian rocker MiG Ayesa who brought the house down at the start of the 19th Philippine Advertising Congress here yesterday.

Suddenly, the event turned into a brief rock concert at 9:30 a.m. as Ayesa, who won the hearts of Filipinos when he placed third in the recent "Rock Star INXS" reality TV competition, appeared in tight black pants and black blazer and sang "We Will Rock You."

The audience screamed, rose from their seats, and swayed to

LEA STARS/ A4

JUNJIE MENDOZA/CEBU DAILY NEWS

AYESA FEVER is running high that even nonrocker PDI president/CEO Sandy Prieto-Romualdez catches it at the 19th Ad Congress where the Filipino-Australian star of the INXS reality show, MiG Ayesa, brings the house down with "We Will Rock You."

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: At 2 a.m. yesterday, Tropical Storm "Pepeng" was estimated based on satellite and surface data at 550 km east oast of Virac, Catanduanes with maximum sustained winds of 95 kph near the center and gustiness up to 120 kph. It is forecast to move west northwest at 7 kph.

COMPILED BY JAMIE ALARCON, PDI RESEARCH/11/17/05 SOURCE PAGASA

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Second FRONTPAGE

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Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Abu leader slain in Tawi-Tawi

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan and Christine O. Avendaño

AN ABU SAYYAF LEADER BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN behind the abduction of resort workers in Malaysia in 2003 was killed in an encounter with Marines on Wednesday, as Armed Forces chief of staff Gen. Generoso Senga got ready to head to Sulu today one week after clashes broke out between government troops and Moro rebels.

"I'll be going there to see what is really happening on the ground and what our troops need so that we can sustain the operations and finish the job right away," said Senga, who was interviewed in Malacañang.

Jatib Jainal Usman, alias Milikan, whose Abu Sayyaf unit was believed behind the abduction of the six resort workers from Sabah, was killed in Panglima Sugala, Tawi-Tawi.

Also slain were alleged Abu Sayyaf members Pula Alih and Faizal Mutia. Usman's son, Aldren Usman, was reportedly captured. His age was not given.

Members of Marine Battalion Landing Team (MBLT) 11 were on patrol when they ran into Usman's group, triggering a 20-minute firefight, according to Marine spokesperson Maj. Melquiades Ordiales.

The troops seized three high-powered firearms and a handheld radio from the bandits, Ordiales said.

Long wanted

He said Usman was in the group that kidnapped and brought the resort workers—three Filipinos and three Indonesians—to the Philippines.

"The hostages were seized from Sabah. One of them was killed, one escaped and four others were later freed after negotiations with their families," Ordiales said.

When the group's leader, Ayub Bakil, was killed in an encounter with Marines in June last year in Laguyan, Tawi-Tawi, Usman reportedly replaced him.

"We have been trying to get to Usman for a long time. He is wanted for the abductions [in Malaysia]," Ordiales told AFP.

Ordiales said the Tawi-Tawi encounter was not connected to the renewed fighting in Sulu where Marine and Army troops are engaged in battles with a combined force of the Abu Sayyaf and the so-called Misuari Breakaway Group.

The Sulu clashes, which erupted last Friday, have killed four Marines and wounded 22 others, while around 17 Abu Sayyaf members were reported killed. *With an AFP report*

New 'Hello Garci' bombshells a dud

By TJ Burgonio

AFTER A LULL OF MORE THAN a month, the Senate resumed its inquiry into the "Hello Garci" scandal yesterday, but fell short of its own as well as the public's expectations as four "surprise witnesses" did not show up.

Judge Nagamura Moner and three other residents of Lanao del Sur were supposed to testify on the role of President Macapagal-Arroyo's husband in the alleged electoral fraud in Mindanao, but they did not even send word why they were not honoring the Senate's invitation.

The absence of Moner, a judge of the Shariah Circuit Court of Wao-Bumbaran, Ahmare Lucman, Lomala Macadaud and Minupun Batugan, all of Bayang town, surprised many and set off speculations as to why they stayed away. The four were reportedly in Cagayan de Oro.

"I thought he (Moner) was going to come. He was in Manila [this week]," said Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, chair of the committee on national defense and security. "Well, disappearing act seems to be the fad today."

Moner, Macadaud and Batugan claimed in separate interviews with the Probe Team of ABS-CBN last month that they had been tapped by First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo to bribe election officials in Mindanao to ensure Ms Arroyo's victory in last year's presidential election.

The President's husband has consistently denied any hand in electoral fraud.

Biazon said that Moner had executed an "affidavit" detailing Mr. Arroyo's alleged involvement in the fraud. But Biazon did not disclose the contents of the statement because it had not been signed and he wanted Moner to publicly affirm or deny the statement.

Hadji Abdullah Dalidig, chair of the National Movement for Free Elections in Lanao del Sur, testified at yesterday's hearing and repeated claims he had made earlier that votes for Ms Arroyo had been padded while those for the late actor Fernando Poe Jr. and other candidates had been trimmed down.

Police explain video

By Luige A. del Puerto

A SENIOR POLICE OFFICIAL TRIED TO explain the actions of the Traffic Management Group officers who were captured on video shooting at three carjackers even after the suspects had already been subdued.

Chief Supt. Augusto Angcanan, the head of the TMG, defended the 10 officers, insisting that a "state of danger" still existed when the officers were seen shooting at the suspects as they lay slumped in their car.

Police claimed that the three men were carjackers who were killed in a shootout with pursuing TMG officers in Pasig last Nov. 7.

The video showing plainclothes policemen firing at the apparently already immobilized suspects raised suspicions the men may have been summarily executed.

Yesterday, a relative of one of the suspects, Brian Anthony Dulay, said the family would pursue the truth behind the killing.

Robert Lim Joseph, a cousin of Dulay's father, said the family would cooperate in the investigation of the Commission on Human Rights, and then take legal action against the police.

Depressed and traumatized

"Right now, the family is depressed and traumatized," he said.

The police said Dulay, Anton Cu-Unjieng and Francis Manzano were members of a notorious and well-funded carjacking syndicate responsible for a series of violent robberies in Metro Manila in the past three months.

"What we really want is to find out the truth. But the kids can no longer speak. Why did they have to silence them? Why did they have to shoot them like that? You saw the video," Joseph said.

In an interview with GMA 7, Angcanan said at least two of the suspects "moved and appeared to be reaching for a gun" when the officers approached the car.

Two guns were later found in the car, a 9mm pistol and a 9mm Ingram.

Angcanan said he questioned the officers and asked why they had to fire more shots as shown in the video.

He quoted one of the officers as saying: "Sir, when I opened the car's [front] door, I saw a hand move. It looked as if the hand was reaching for a gun. I thought, I will not wait for (him) to shoot me."

As for the second video clip showing two officers tinkering with something inside the car, suggesting they may have been planting evidence, Angcanan said they were looking for a grenade.

He said the officers had received information that the suspects could be carrying a grenade.

Angcanan said the video did not "depict the complete picture" of the incident.

He said the suspects had already engaged the officers in a firefight and the latter brought this "state of mind" when they went to check on the suspects' car.

"Their actions depicted their state of mind, the state of danger at the time," Angcanan said.

Probable cause

Inspector Gen. Alexis Canonizado, the chief of the PNP Internal Affairs Service, said the IAS would determine within the next few days whether there was probable cause for criminal and administrative charges against the 10 officers.

"If probable cause is established during the precharge investigation, then we will charge them both in court criminally, and administratively," said Canonizado.

PNP Chief Director Gen. Arturo Lomibao has directed the IAS to review a TMG fact-finding team's report on the case and come up with its own investigation.

Canonizado said the IAS investigation could lead to changes in the police's operational procedures and training system. *With a report from Norman Bordadora*

A CALL TO PURSUE PEACE AND JUSTICE-BASED DEVELOPMENT IN SULU

Nine months ago, armed hostilities erupted between the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Moro National Liberation Front affecting close to 10,0000 families in 73 barangays in mainland Sulu. Casualties of war from both warring forces were in significant numbers. While many of the affected civilian communities are still struggling to recover from the damage of the February war, fresh hostilities broke out in the municipality of Indanan a week ago, a stone's throw away from the capital town of Jolo. Potentially, the conflict can spill over to the rest of the Sulu mainland and the region unless halted NOW.

Tragically, Sulu remains the poorest province in the Philippines with a poverty incidence of 88.8 percent in 2003. Life expectancy at birth is 52.8 years, short of 17.2 years if one were a resident of Manila. Other glaring human development indicators show that 82.7 percent of households in Sulu have no access to electricity, and only 21.1 percent have attained at least six years of primary education. A 2005 *Tabang Mindanaw* survey of the water sources in half of the 18 municipalities in Sulu reveals that 92 percent of these sources are fecally-contaminated, and 56 percent are salty. These sadly show how undignified the quality of life has been for the *Suluanos*. Needless to say, such is even made worse in a situation of war.

The Sulu multi-stakeholders engaged in the *Pagtabangan BaSulTa* process have begun to evolve alternative sustainable interventions to address poverty, conflict and marginalization within a human security framework. This has begun with a process of local ownership of the inequities and the solution of the same, and helping local leaders create new institutional arrangements that will provide people human security. Such pilot efforts towards institutional and societal transformation are often easily destroyed by armed conflict. **History has proven that fighting does not offer a viable solution.** War deepens societal divides entrapped in a spiraling force of displacement of families and destruction of lives, worsening conflict and resulting to development paralysis.

The human cost of armed conflict does not only refer to physical damages to lives and property but lost opportunities. Worse, at this time of growing impoverishment by the majority of Filipinos, vital public funds for development are diverted to war operations, and subsequent rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts. There is also the danger of fueling discrimination and prejudice against Muslims in the context of war against terrorism. There needs to be a clear delineation of terrorist groups from the general Muslim population.

We, the *Pagtabangan Sulu Convenors for Peace and Human Security*, call on our local officials and our people of Sulu to help bring back the peace in *Lupah Sug* at all costs. Let us work together in guarding the peace in the true spirit of Islam that allows for authentic human development. This process can only begin with our own hands in our own land.

We, the *Pagtabangan BaSulTa Coalition*, challenge the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process, and the national government in general as well as ALL parties to the conflict to end the fighting and work for PEACE. Together, let us sincerely pursue alternative sustainable peace tracks to end armed conflict in Sulu. This can begin with an authentic grassroots-based consultation with the people of Sulu on their vision and goals for peace.

Pagtabangan BaSulTa commits to continue its peace building and development efforts for Sulu, which it had struggled to begin with collectively more than a year ago. Let us give the people of Sulu the chance to develop their lives in peace and harmony as it rightfully had for many years before Martial Law.

(*Pagtabangan BaSulTa*, a joint effort of initially ten private organizations to engage and support local leaders in the provinces of Basilan, Sulu and Tawi-tawi, is working to develop lasting solutions to the problem of poverty, conflict and marginalization in the region. Local Convenors composed of multi-sectoral leaders from non-government organizations lead the *Pagtabangan* engagement process in Basilan, Sulu and Tawi-Tawi.)

Wrongfully deported Pinay returning to Australia today

SYDNEY—A SERIOUSLY-ILL woman who was wrongfully deported to the Philippines in an immigration department bungle will return to Australia Friday, her lawyers said Thursday.

Vivian Alvarez Solon was deported as an illegal immigrant in July 2001, even though she is a naturalized citizen, and the mistake was covered up by officials until she was discovered in a Manila hospice for the dying last May.

Since then, her return to Australia has been delayed as her lawyers negotiate a compensation package with the Australian government.

One of her legal team, Harry Friedman, confirmed that Alvarez Solon would arrive in Australia on Friday.

A government watchdog last month described the immigration department's handling of the 43-year-old mother-of-two's case as "catastrophic."

The case came to light after it was revealed another Australian, German-born Cornelia Rau, was wrongfully imprisoned for 10 months as an illegal immigrant.

The immigration department has since admitted wrongfully detaining more than 200 people who were in the country legally and revealed many had received compensation packages in return for not going public with their cases. *AFP*

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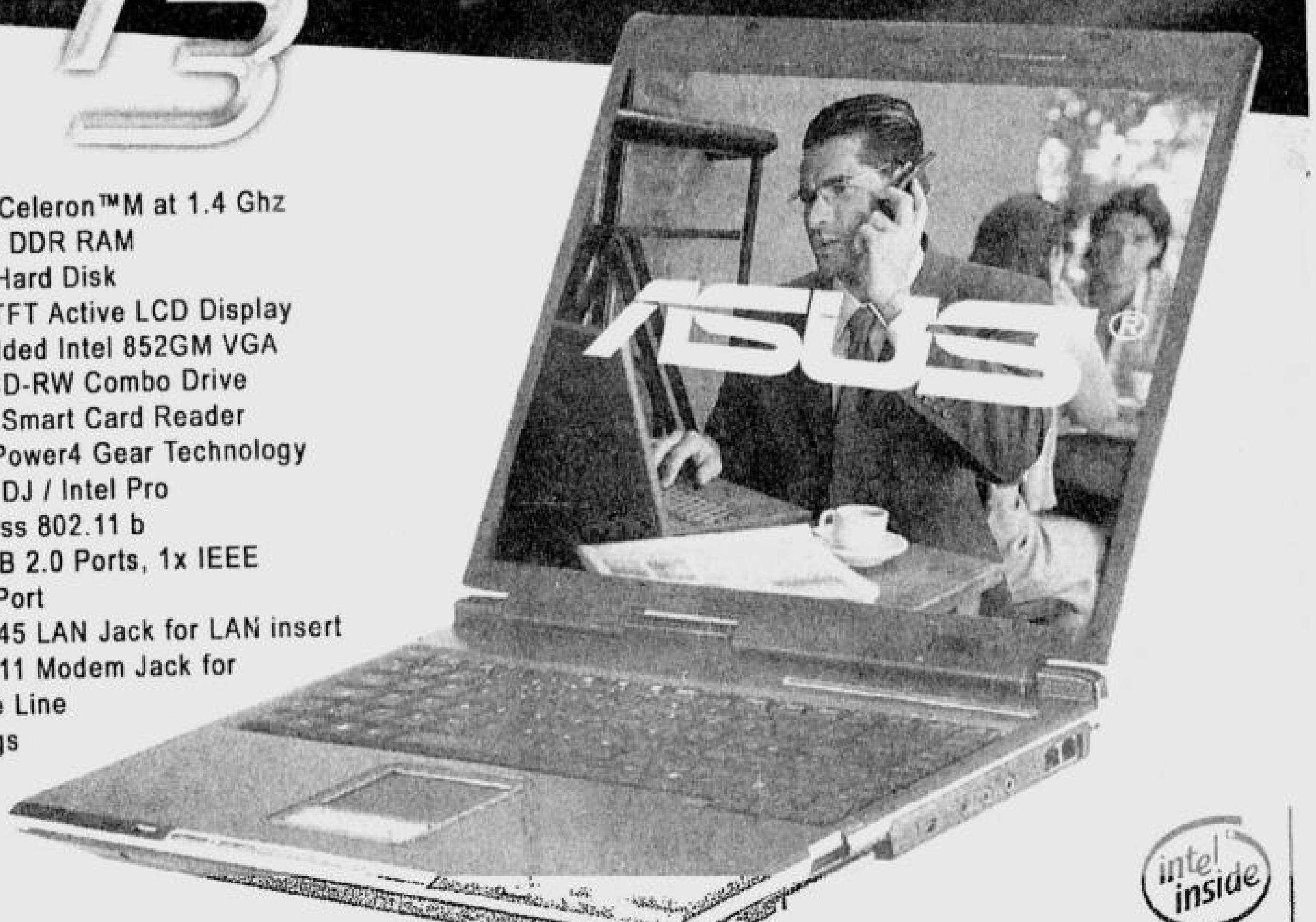

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Gonzalez denies coddling GIs, wants Katrina disbarred

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

JUSTICE SECRETARY RAUL GONzalez yesterday said he would seek the disbarment of lawyer Katrina Legarda for accusing him of coddling the six Americans accused of rape when he ordered their immediate turnover to the US Embassy.

"She's telling a lie," Gonzalez said of Legarda's charge, made in an interview with the INQUIRER on Tuesday. *(See related story on Page A1.)*

"She should prove it that I talked to the Americans and if she can prove it, I will resign," Gonzalez told the INQUIRER before the start of the Legislative Oversight Committee on the Visiting Forces Agreement hearing at the Senate.

"If she cannot prove it, she should submit back her lawyer's commission because in our oath of lawyers we say we do not tell falsehoods. I have not talked to the Americans," Gonzalez said.

"I will file a complaint against her in the Supreme Court," Gonzalez added.

Gonzalez described as a "totally false story" Legarda's statement that Gonzalez had instructed the Olongapo city fiscal to turn over the six US Marines to the US Embassy after he got a call from a US attaché on the early morning of Nov. 2, a day after the alleged rape of the 22-year-old Filipino woman occurred.

"I've not talked to any American since this incident happened. In fairness to them they have not also called me. That is a tall tale and a total lie, somebody must be hallucinating," Gonzalez said.

Lea stars but MiG rocks opening of Ad Congress

From page A1

the music while taking shots of the star with camera-equipped mobile phones.

'Uncongress'

It was indeed a good start to an "uncongress congress," Meryl Schlachterman, the PAC chair, said in her opening speech.

Salonga was, of course, the main performer and the audience was just as warm when she went on stage in a black and red maternity gown. She said she had just passed the "first trimester nauseating term" and was beginning to feel normal again.

Close to 2,700 people registered as delegates and volunteers in the two-day congress, despite the conflicts and challenges that marred its staging this year. About 500 more are expected to attend the Araw Awards tomorrow, the Oscars of the local industry, which honors excellent work in the past two years.

KBP absence

Schlachterman said the huge attendance was met even "without our dear friends at KBP" (Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster ng Pilipinas).

The KBP, composed of TV and radio stations nationwide, had traditionally been among the major sponsors of the ad congress. It pulled out of the Advertising Board, the umbrella organization of the Ad Congress this year, casting doubts on whether the event would push through.

Schlachterman said the KBP had been invited to join the gathering. "We wanted the congress to be for the industry and not be like a club."

But the KBP hardly had any delegates.

Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala, president and chief executive officer of Ayala Corp., veered away from his prepared keynote speech. "Let us make one thing clear—I cannot sing, and I can hardly dance," he said, as he acknowledged the high energy of the audience following Ayesa's opening number.

"Sorry to have to bring you to look at reality," Zobel de Ayala said before proceeding with his talk on "Selling Brand Philippines."

He cited three elements to engage in the global economy—a mix of macro and micro reforms, human resources and demographic advantage, and the private sector and small and medium enterprises as the engine for national transformation.

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Cops rescue kidnapped girl

By Luige A. del Puerto

POLICE HAVE RESCUED A HALF-starved 12-year-old girl one week after two men wearing ski masks snatched her from her father while he was driving her to school in Angeles City, Pampanga, police said yesterday. The kidnappers had not fed the girl for three days because her parents could not afford the P6 million ransom they demanded, police said.

Deputy Director General Oscar Calderon, chief of the Presidential Anti-Crime and Emergency Response, said police rescued the victim, whose identity is being withheld, from a resort beside the Gapan-Olongapo Highway in Lubao, Pampanga near midnight Wednesday.

The girl, accompanied by her mother, was presented to President Macapagal-Arroyo at the airport yesterday morning before Ms Arroyo departed for the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in Busan, South Korea.

Working on leads provided by the girl's father, a rice dealer who recognized the alleged mastermind from previous business dealings with him, police tailed the suspects and eventually found their way to the resort where the girl was being held, Calderon said.

The alleged kidnappers, identified as Jose Marin Manlangue, 38, a Lubao rice mill operator, and Jimmy Altoveros, 25, a native of Negros Occidental, were arrested in the operation, Calderon said.

Calderon said the girl, who was neither bound nor gagged, was held in a room inside the Olebasi Resort but had apparently not been fed as the kidnappers had threatened to starve her to death if the P6 million ransom they demanded was not paid.

"The abductors were asking for a sizable ransom, but the family could not afford it, so they told the family they would just have to kill the girl slowly by not feeding her," a source close to the investigation said. "The mastermind would not give her food during the last three days."

Fortunately, the girl's caretaker could not stomach the cruelty and gave her a little food whenever the caretaker could, added the source who asked not to be identified for security reasons.

All is forgiven, but …

AS THE "HYATT 10" MEMBERS appear one by one before the Senate to resume their attacks on President Macapagal-Arroyo, Malacañang yesterday said the chief executive has already forgiven her former Cabinet members' "betrayal" and "conspiracy."

The President's forgiveness, however, comes with a parting shot as Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said that the Hyatt 10 members, who collectively resigned on July 8 and demanded that the President do the same, would be remembered as "heels and not heroes."

Bunye reserved the Palace's harshest words for former Social Welfare and Development Secretary Corazon "Dinky" Soliman whose knife seems to have the deepest cut among the blades on the President's back.

"I am sad to say that as a former colleague in the Cabinet, Dinky Soliman is trying to portray herself as a martyr when she is definitely not," Bunye said in a statement.

The Palace described Soliman as "one of the closest and most loyal to the President among her Cabinet colleagues." It claimed that Soliman "was professing her full support for Ms Arroyo barely hours before the bombshell announcement of the Hyatt 10 breakaway from the President." *Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.*

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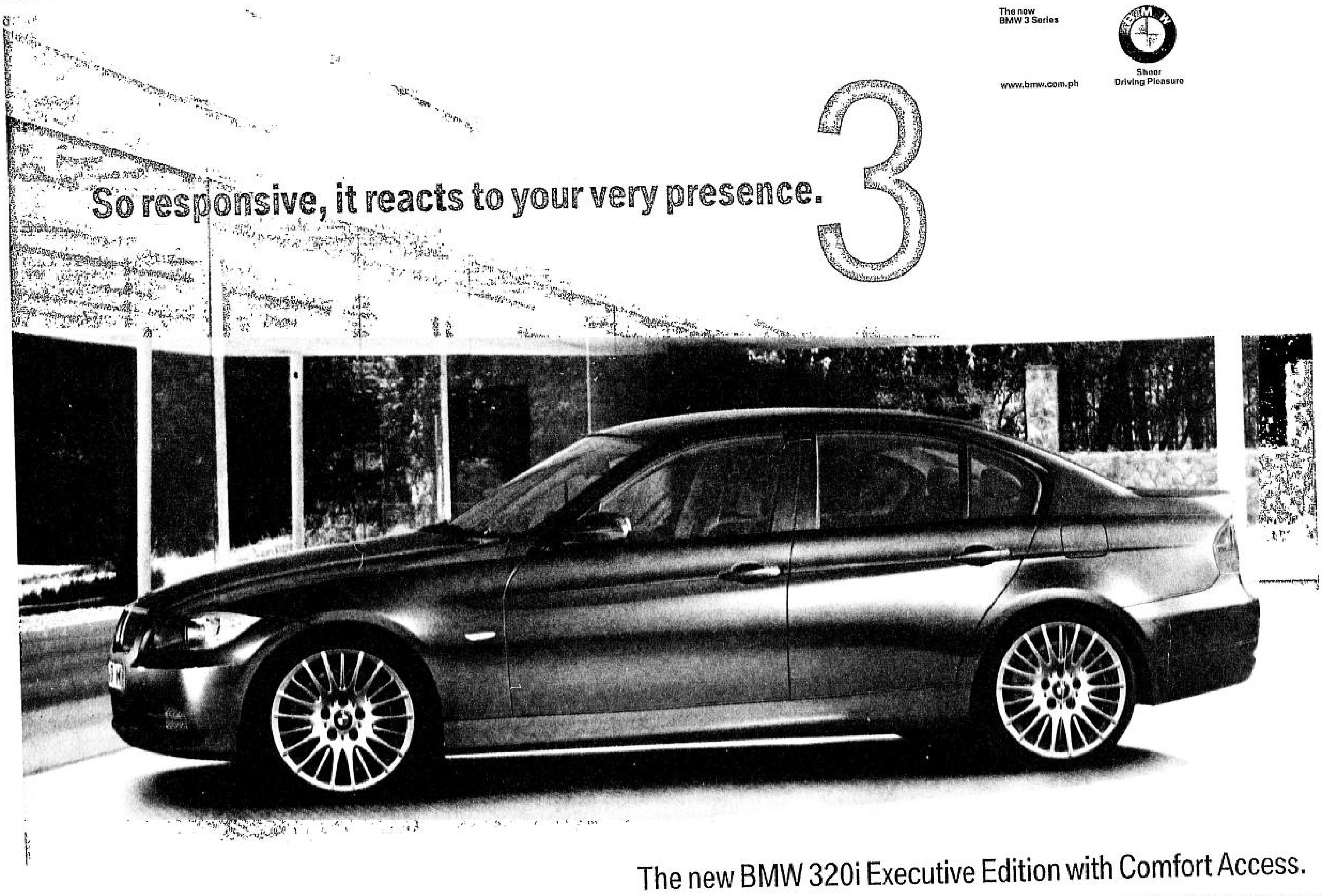

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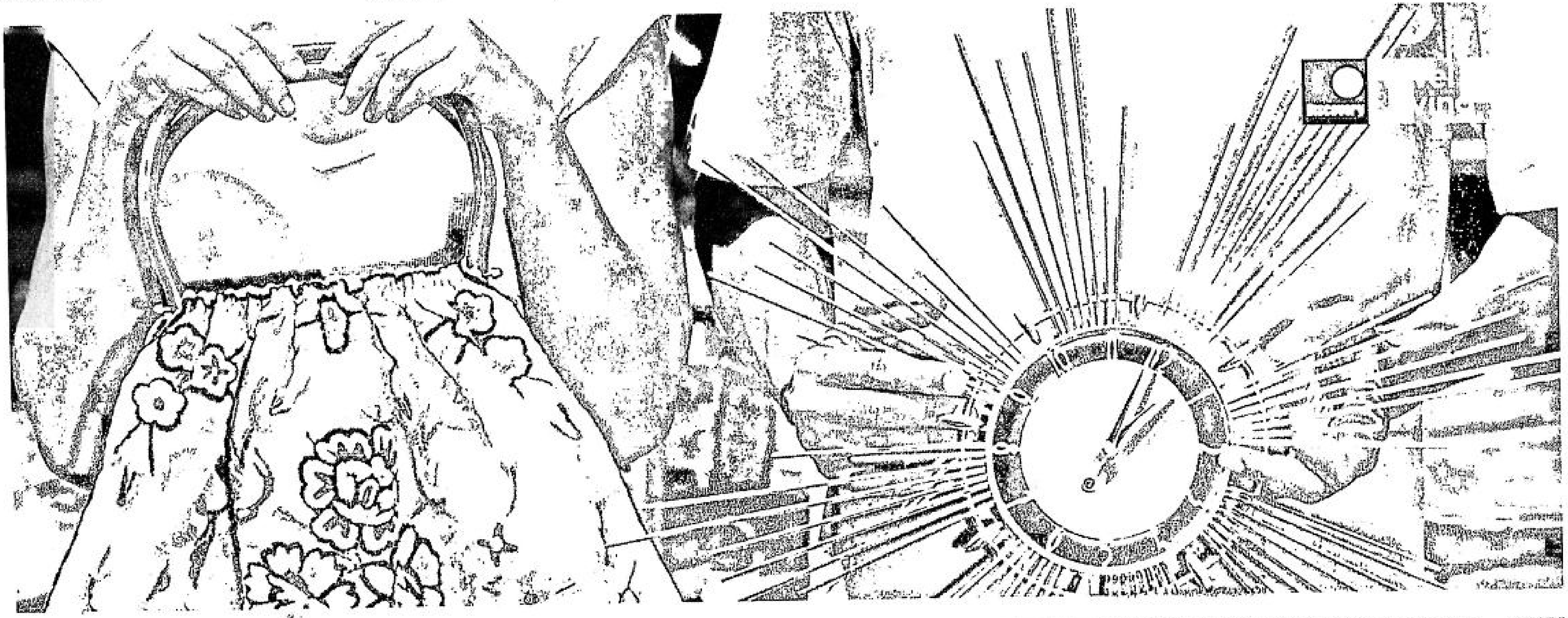

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Fertilizer probe opens more cans of worms

From page A1

Asked by Sen. Rodolfo Biazon if the President knew about the releases, Boncodin said: "Yes, I would imagine so."

Bolante was invited to a Senate hearing on Oct. 27, but he left the country hours before the hearing began.

Boncodin said she had assumed that the President knew about the controversial fund releases.

Akame Marketing

BOLANTE

BONCODIN

Antonio Salas, Eastern Samar assistant provincial treasurer, told the Senate agriculture committee that the province disbursed a total of P6.5 million to Akame Marketing International in April 2004 for 4,328 bags of fertilizer, but the province did not receive the farm inputs.

Salas said provincial agricultural officer Jesus Agda certified to him that the province did not receive the fertilizer although Thomas Campomanes, a representative of the Provincial General Services Office, claimed that the chief of staff of Eastern Samar Rep. Marcelino Libanan and Gov. Clotilde Salazar had received them.

"We spoke with Mr. Agda and found out that there were no actual deliveries of fertilizer or implements to the provincial government and he, thereafter, issued a certification to that effect dated June 7, 2004," Salas said in his sworn affidavit.

"I was surprised to know this because, contrary to Mr. Agda's certification, (Campomanes) declared in the inspection report dated April 14, 2004, that 2,164 (sacks of fertilizer were) accepted by Attorney Norman Tancingco (Libanan's chief of staff), were inspected, verified and found okay as to quantity and specifications," he said.

Salas said another inspection made by Campomanes on April 19, 2004, indicated that 2,164 bags were accepted by Salazar on April 19, 2004.

Ghost deliveries

The assistant treasurer said he learned about the alleged ghost deliveries when he personally made inquiries after some people asked in June 2004 about the bags of fertilizer, "which were supposed to be delivered to the province and availed of by the farmers."

"I wanted for so long to be with this body so that our people and the country would know about these anomalies," he told the senators.

Salas insisted that no fertilizer was delivered, adding that Campomanes' office was near his office and he would have known if any deliveries were made.

Aling Simang Gulayan

Salas also pointed out that a regional newspaper discovered that the phone number on the receipt of Akame Marketing belonged to a vegetable store in Caloocan.

"The said store is in fact Aling Simang Gulayan and does not distribute fertilizer and (a representative of the store) further stated that the store has been receiving a lot of calls asking if the same is Akame Marketing," he said.

Salas said that a certain Kevin Obed Apostol personally encashed the second disbursement to Akame.

Sen. Ramon Magsaysay, agriculture committee chair, said the committee would subpoena Apostol.

Let truth come out

Alfonso Esposa, president of the Eastern Samar Irrigators Federation, backed Salas' claims, telling the senators that provincial agricultural officer Agda had also told him that not a single bag of fertilizer was delivered to the province.

"I categorically state and confirm that no member of our organization received any fertilizer or farm input since I became the Irrigators Federation president of Eastern Samar in 2001 up to the present," Esposa said.

Esposa said farmers in the province had even planned to get a loan because they needed money for fertilizer.

"I should know if the farmers got the fertilizers because they were approaching me and asking 'Where are the fertilizers?'" he said.

Next hearing

Magsaysay said he hoped Bolante and former Agriculture Secretary Cito Lorenzo, who had both gone abroad, would appear at the next Senate hearing on the fund releases next week.

Former Solicitor General Frank Chavez urged the committee to immediately serve the summons on Bolante who, he said, had reportedly returned to the country.

Former Education Secretary Florencio Abad also denied that Batanes had received P3 million in fertilizer funds, although he was named a proponent for the program by Bolante when Abad was a congressman.

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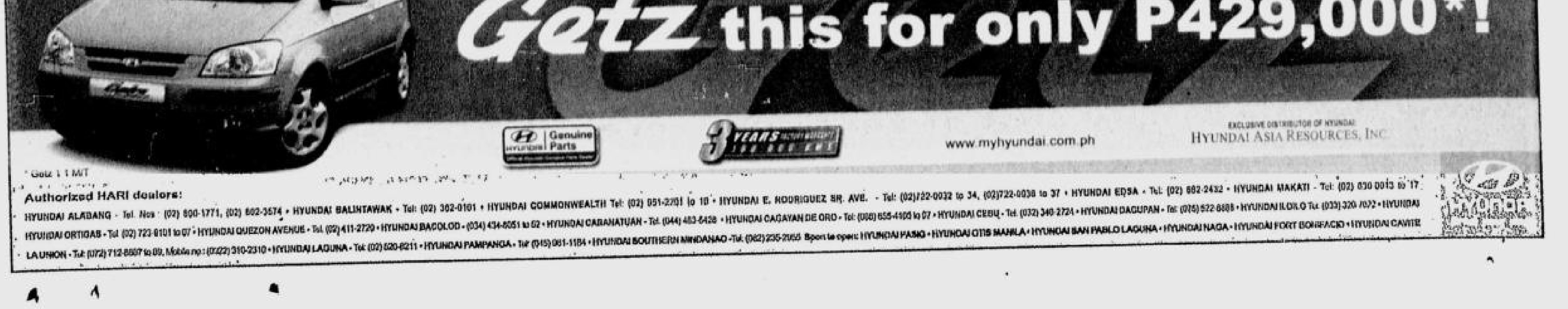

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Bird flu, terrorism, poverty…

From page A1

Leaders' Meeting in Busan, South Korea, President Macapagal-Arroyo said yesterday.

Ms Arroyo said she would seek stronger cooperation with Asia Pacific nations at the 21-member Apec forum, which she is scheduled to attend today and tomorrow.

"This trip to Apec is another important way to invest in the economic, social and physical security of our nation," Ms Arroyo said in a pre-departure speech in Malacañang.

She arrived in Busan last night to join a "lean" delegation that includes Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye, Trade Secretary Peter Favila and Presidential Chief Legal Counsel Merceditas Gutierrez.

Ms Arroyo is arranging a "pull aside" dialogue with United States President George W. Bush to discuss, possibly among key issues, the rape of a young Filipino woman by six American soldiers in Subic, according to Foreign Undersecretary for International Trade Relations Edsel Custodio.

The brief but hopefully significant encounter could come during a break in the tight schedule of the Apec meeting.

Bush's scheduled one-hour meeting with the "Asean 7," which includes Ms Arroyo at 9:25 a.m. today, might provide an opening for the informal dialogue between the two leaders, said Juan Dayang Jr., vice consul and third secretary of the Philippine Embassy in South Korea.

"But there are other events like dinner, luncheon and the photo session," he told reporters at a press briefing in Busan.

Lack of antiflu drugs

In her pre-departure speech, Ms Arroyo said she would share with Apec leaders the measures that the Philippine government had been taking to prepare for any outbreak of the deadly virus.

The Philippines remains free of the H5N1 virus, which has killed more than 60 people in Asia since 2003. Almost all of those who died had been in close contact with infected birds.

Health experts fear millions of people could die around the world if the virus mutates to the point where it could spread easily from person to person.

Ms Arroyo said she intended to talk to Apec leaders about the lack of antiflu viral drugs and the need to have enough stocks of these.

"And upon my return I'll be working with the Cabinet to put final touches on our own comprehensive avian flu prevention program," she said.

The President also said she intended to ask Congress to provide additional funding "to fully prepare the nation in case of an outbreak of avian flu."

She said funding for this program could be taken from the P37 billion in savings that the government gained from its debt service.

3 approaches vs terror

On the fight against terrorism, she said that having been made head of the Apec task force against terrorism since last year, the country had "rallied Apec nations to strengthen our cooperation in the global fight against terrorism."

At home, Ms Arroyo enumerated the three approaches her administration had adopted to protect the country.

- Sharing intelligence with allies, training of troops and engaging in regional coordination.
- Bringing peace to areas like Mindanao "so they can separate those who seek peace and prosperity from those who wish war and degradation."
- Tackling terrorism through eradication of poverty.

She had asked Congress to pass an antiterror law.

To fight poverty, the President said she would reiterate at the Apec meeting Manila's proposal to the United Nations for a "large conversion of debt for the Millennium Development Goals Financing Program."

Inflexible

Custodio was not optimistic that Ms Arroyo would have another long conversation with Bush at this year's Apec like they had during a recent gathering at the United Nations where they were seated beside each other.

Such an opportunity was not likely to happen this time considering the "inflexible" arrangements made by Busan organizers for both the first and second retreats of the economic leaders, Custodio said.

Ms Arroyo will be seated between her Russian and Peruvian counterparts at the table in the left wing. Bush will be positioned between Thailand and Vietnam in the middle table.

Ms Arroyo's lone bilateral talks in Busan will be with South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun, who is scheduled for a state visit to the Philippines on Dec. 14-16, according to Dayang.

The formal dialogue will cover an economic partnership between Manila and Seoul, including the possible signing of the Filipino-Korean social security agreement and Korean investment in the energy sector, he said.

Dayang said Roh might visit the 100-megawatt coal-fired power plant project of the Korean Electric Power Corp. in Cebu during his trip.

"We are intensifying our economic and even cultural relations with Korea considering that it is the world's 11th largest economy," Custodio said.

Unkempt garden …

From page A1

before her departure for South Korea for the 13th Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) meeting.

Shortly after holding a pre-departure news briefing in Malacanang's Blue Room, President Arroyo was seen fuming in the back hallway of Kalayaan Hall, which recently underwent a multimillion-peso makeover into a historical museum.

The President's famous temper flared up when she saw the patchy and lifeless Bermuda grass as well as the green soot that covered the life-size statues in the Kalayaan Hall garden.

She asked loudly why the plants had not been watered and pruned in one of the oldest buildings in the Palace complex.

The President, surrounded by security aides, also fulminated at the lack of toilet paper in the restroom which she passed on her way back to her office.

A known micromanager, the President sometimes walks around the Palace to inspect her office and residence but she rarely gets upset—until yesterday.

Imelda-style beautification

During a Cabinet meeting two weeks ago, the President announced she was taking a personal interest in the massive facelift of the nation's capital, similar to Imelda Marcos' lavish city beautification campaigns.

"To give you an idea how meticulous the President is, she wants all roads from the airport to Edsa to Quirino to Roxas Boulevard to hotels to look good," said Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita.

Ermita said the President was "very particular" about the beautification of the city.

"We might not be rich but we always want to show our homes at their best when visitors come," he said.

Ermita said the urban facelift, estimated to cost P100 million, would cover "unsightly places along rail tracks where informal settlers would be asked to beautify their place of residence."

He said that this was part of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority's bid to improve the environment to attract more investors and tourists dubbed *"Pook na bulok walang negosyong papasok,"* or no business comes to a rotten place.

Rebranding the capital

The President unveiled her plan to refurbish Metro Manila's blighted image last week, including rebranding the metropolis simply as Manila—"a metropolis compared to Bangkok or Hong Kong."

"The routes that investors pass all the time when they are thinking of whether they should be investing in the Philippines, the routes from airports to hotels, from Malacañang to Calabarzon, these are the primary areas for urban renewal and face-lifting," the President told an entrepreneurs' forum.

Not only does the President want the tourists to see a beautiful Manila, Ermita said she also wants the Filipinos the tourists would meet at the airport—from security to customs to tourism officials—to be courteous and friendly.

"We are known for our hospitality and our President wants to revive the program of showing our best to our visitors," Ermita said.

Blood, sweat …

From page A1

Rovee Jay Velasco, one of the few heterosexuals in the group, pointing to a deep, two-inch cut in his right thigh that he got from the sharp edge of the stage's staircase.

The 24-year-old hip-hop dance teacher slapped duct tape on the wound, and hoped that the blood would not seep through and show on his white pants as he went through his numbers.

A pulled thigh muscle tormented Reynante Gabriel throughout the opening night of Tres Bien's new Samba Carnival show.

Gabriel grimaced each time he landed hard on his right leg, but he tried not to dwell on the pain and carried on with his cartwheels and high kicks.

"The show must go on," he said.

At the time of the INQUIRER's visit in September, almost all of the 15-member dance troupe were nursing purplish bruises and sprained ankles.

It's inevitable as they skip a rung or two of the steep staircase that they negotiate to get backstage for lightning-fast costume changes, often in high heels and flowing dresses.

And they run up that staircase about 24 times through the three shows daily that they put on 28 days a month.

They get only two days off a month under the six-month contract.

Grief and longing

The pain is apparently not just physical.

Gabriel was crying himself to sleep because he was grieving over the death of his mother. (He had earlier flown home thinking that he would see her alive. But he was two days late, and he could not forgive himself.)

Velasco was sorely missing his wife and their 4-year-old daughter, and was making do with overseas phone calls and looking at their picture. (It was pasted on the bottom of the top bunk of the double deck bed.)

"That's life here in Japan. It's difficult and lonely, but can be fun at the same time," said Adji Amarilla, a former ballet scholar of the Cultural Center of the Philippines, who has been working in Japan for over 15 years.

They must also go to great lengths to take care of their bodies. For many of them, bleaches, liposuction, tummy tucks, nose lifts and other cosmetic improvements are par for the course.

A day in the life

But keeping away from the sun's damaging rays is no problem.

The "day" starts at about 6 p.m., when the four or five dancers sharing an apartment unit awake from their usual four-to-five-hour sleep and take turns in the shower.

At 8 p.m. they arrive backstage of the *omise* (club) and embark on the elaborate ritual of putting on their makeup, fixing their hair, and getting into their gowns or suits.

At 8:30 they go to the *omise* to socialize with the guests.

The first of the three hourlong shows starts at 9:30 p.m., and the second, at 12:30 a.m. The last is at 3:30 a.m., whether there is only one guest or a hundred.

Failure to appear for a show means a stiff penalty of ¥30,000 (or P15,000)—sufficient motivation to keep them going.

If they are preparing for a new number, they close the club, change into something comfortable, and spend the next two hours or so rehearsing their steps under the watchful eye of Raul Nepomuceno, their *odori sensei* (dance teacher), who has been an entertainer abroad for 28 years.

Then they sew their costumes and make their props according to the specifications of their costume designer, Ai Landero.

At around 7 a.m. they either retire to their rooms to rest or head to the nearby Denny's restaurant to unwind (it's the only restaurant that serves good red wine for breakfast, they said).

By 2 p.m. almost everyone is asleep in the apartment. Their day starts again a few hours later.

Toughing it out

The job is not as glamorous as most Filipinos back home think. But the entertainers tough it out in the land of the rising sun because their families depend on them.

Ken Nunez, another old-timer in Japan, said he and the other entertainers of Tres Bien were lucky because they had comfortable, air-conditioned rooms and free food.

He said some were not as fortunate.

According to Nunez, there are clubs that force their talents to drink up with their customers to bring in the revenues. (The talents drink a glass of olive oil a night to avoid getting drunk, he said.)

Then there are those whose living quarters are extremely cramped, with as many as 11 sharing a small apartment, and others that do not receive the salary stipulated in their employment contracts, he said.

Professionals, not Japayuki

And yes, there are the few clubs that front for prostitution dens, as well as the prevailing belief that entertainers in Japan double as prostitutes.

Hearing themselves called "Japayuki" never fails to raise the hackles of entertainers like those at Tres Bien, who are working in Japan with years of experience in ballet and jazz behind them.

"We are professionals," said Amarilla. "We should be treated with respect." *Conclusion: Business is hurting*

ELECTRIC SERVICE IN THESE AREAS WILL BE MOMENTARILY INTERRUPTED FOR FACILITIES UPGRADING AND OTHER LINE WORK.

MAINTENANCE
SCHEDULE

MERALCO

POSTED ONLINE AT THE MERALCO WEBSITE www.meralco.com.ph

To carry out necessary maintenance and upgrading works on various MERALCO distribution facilities, electric service will be temporarily interrupted on the following dates and places:

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2005

PASAY CITY AND MAKATI CITY

BETWEEN 8:00AM AND 8:30AM AND THEN BETWEEN 1:30PM AND 2:00PM – PORTION OF CIRCUIT MALIBAY 43VJ – PARAÑAQUE 43ZJ

Portion of Magallanes St. from Victoria St. to Epifanio Delos Santos Ave. (EDSA) including Premiere Bank in Magallanes Village, Makati City.

Portion of Aurora Blvd. (Tramo) from EDSA to Andrews Ave. including Winston Lodge, Columbian Motors, Island Air Products, Pasay Ice Plant and Maricaban Bliss Project in Malibay, Pasay City.

Portion of Andrews Ave. from LRTA Depot to NAIA 3 Terminal in Malibay, Pasay City.

BETWEEN 8:00AM AND 2:00PM – PORTION OF CIRCUIT MALIBAY 43VJ – PARAÑAQUE 43ZJ

Portion of Epifanio Delos Santos Ave. (EDSA) from Magallanes St. to Aurora Blvd. (Tramo) in Malibay, Pasay City.

REASON: Relocation of facilities affected by DPWH Malibay Bridge Project along EDSA, Malibay, Pasay City

MONDAY TO TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 21 - 22, 2005

CALOOCAN CITY AND MALABON CITY

BETWEEN 11:30PM AND 12:00MN (MON., 11/21/05) AND THEN BETWEEN 4:30AM AND 5:00AM (TUE., 11/22/05) – PORTION OF MALABON 55YD

Portion of Bronze, Nickel, Acero and Dr. Lazcano (Paz) Sts. from Cobre St. to Gen. San Miguel St. in Bgy. Tugatog, Malabon City.

Portion of Gen. San Miguel St. and Mayor Paterio Aquino Ave. (Letre Road) from J. Felipe St. in Sangandaan, Caloocan City to near Our Lady of Lourdes Eternal Park in Bgy. Tonsuya, Malabon City including Kinjoin Industrial Corp., Gozon Commercial Complex, Super 8 Concrete, Marco Structures, Ryan Metals Mfg., Fabriknit Industries and Champion Packaging Corp. in Bgy. Tonsuya, Malabon City

BETWEEN 11:30PM (MON., 11/21/05) AND 5:00AM (TUE., 11/22/05) – PORTION OF MALABON 55YD AND 413YD

Portion of M. H. Del Pilar, A. Mabini, Gen. San Miguel Sts. and Samson Road from Meralco – Malabon substation along Lt. Leandro Roque St. in Bgy Tugatog, Malabon City to and including Heroes Del 96 St. in Caloocan City.

Portion of Araneta Ave. and Manga Road from Samson Road to Pinaglipunan Circle in Bgy. Potrero, Malabon City; and Sangandaan, Caloocan City.

Portion of Nangka and Caimito Road from Pinaglipunan Circle to and including University Ave. in Bgy. Potrero, Malabon City.

Portion of Tuazon Ave., U. E. Tech, Dunwoody, Edison Tech from University Ave. to and including Brixton and Northern Polytech Sts. in University Hills Subdivision in Bgy Potrero, Malabon City.

REASON: Various line maintenance works along M. H. Del Pilar St. in Bgy. Tugatog, Malabon.

MANILA (SAMPALOC AND STA. CRUZ)

BETWEEN 11:30PM AND 12:00MN (MON., 11/21/05) AND THEN BETWEEN 5:00AM AND 5:30AM (TUE., 11/22/05) – PORTION OF CIRCUIT SAMPALOC 24K

Portion of M. Dela Fuente St from Dapitan to Laong Laan Sts. in Sampaloc

Portion of Laong Laan St. from Dos Castillas St. to Craig St. including Don Quijote, Pepin, Constancia, and Algeciras Sts. in Sampaloc.

BETWEEN 11:30PM (MON., 11/21/05) AND 5:30AM (TUE., 11/22/05) – PORTION OF CIRCUITS SAMPALOC 24K; TEGEN 511B – SAMPALOC 41K AND NORTH PORT 405H – SAMPALOC 47K

Portion of Dapitan St. from Langit St. to M. Dela Fuente St. in Sampaloc

Portion of Arsenio H. Lacson (Gov Forbes), Tayuman and Felix Huertas Sts. from Meralco – Sampaloc substation near Dapitan St. to F. P. Yuseco (Tayabas) St. including M. Hizon, P. Guevarra and Malabon Sts. in Sampaloc and Sta. Cruz.

REASON: Replacement of rotten pole along Arsenio H. Lacson St. (Gov. Forbes) in Sampaloc, Manila.

TUESDAY TO WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 22 - 23, 2005

MAKATI CITY

BETWEEN 11:00PM AND 11:30PM (TUE., 11/22/05) AND THEN BETWEEN 5:30AM AND 6:00AM (WED., 11/23/05) – PORTION OF CIRCUIT KAMAGONG 49VK

Along Ormaza St. from Dela Rosa St. to near V. A. Rufino St. (Herrera) including Sterling Centre in Legaspi Village

BETWEEN 11:00PM (TUE., 11/22/05) AND 6:00AM (WED., 11/23/05) – PORTION OF CIRCUIT KAMAGONG 49VK

Along Rodriguez St. from Dela Rosa St. to near Legaspi St. including Ace Bldg., La Maison Rada Bldg., Prince Bldg., Austrian Embassy, Tuscan Bldg., Eurovilla II Bldg., Eurovilla I Bldg. and Union Church of Manila in Legaspi Village.

REASON: Reconductoring works along Rodriguez St. in Legaspi Village, Makati City in preparation for the new feeder circuits from the new Meralco - Legaspi substation.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2005

RIZAL PROVINCE (ANTIPOLO CITY AND TAYTAY)

BETWEEN 12:01AM AND 12:30AM – THE WHOLE OF CIRCUIT DOLORES 42XM

Portion of Antipolo – Teresa – Morong Provincial Road from Greenheights Subd. to near Circumferential Road including Harris Memorial College and Melendres Life Homes in Bgy. Dolores, Taytay; Our Lady of Charters Convent, Las Brisas Hotel, Beverly Hills Subd., Fairmount Subd. and Evergreen Executive Village in Bgy. San Roque, Antipolo City

Along Cabrera (Kaytikling) Road from Manila East Road to and including Maharlika Hills Subd., Tower Hills Subd. and Rizal Provincial Jail in Bgy. Dolores, Taytay, Rizal.

REASON: Loadshifting of Texfiber from circuit Dolores 45XM to Dolores 42XM.

QUEZON CITY

BETWEEN 8:30AM AND 9:00AM AND THEN BETWEEN 4:00PM AND 4:30PM – PORTION OF CIRCUIT SAN JUAN 18VF

Portion of N. Domingo St. from Meralco - San Juan substation to and including portions of Rosario Drive, P. Tuazon Blvd., Planas Site III, P. Bernardo, St. Peter, Horse Drive, Hilltop, Big Horse Shoe, Balete Drive, Aurora Blvd, Mangga, Dama de Noche, Acacia, 9th, 10th and 11th Sts. in Bgys. Mariana, Valencia, Horseshoe, Kaunlaran and Martin de Porres.

BETWEEN 8:30AM AND 4:30PM – PORTION OF CIRCUIT SAN JUAN 18VF

Along Lantana St. from Balete Drive to and including portions of Rosario Drive, Boston, Vancouver, Seattle, Spencer and Brooklyn Sts. in Bgy. Immaculate Concepcion.

REASON: Replacement of rotten poles along Lantana St. in Bgy. Immaculate Concepcion, New Manila, Quezon City.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 23 - 24, 2005

MAKATI CITY

BETWEEN 11:00PM AND 11:30PM (WED., 11/23/05) AND THEN BETWEEN 6:00AM AND 6:30AM (THU., 11/24/05) – PORTION OF CIRCUITS KAMAGONG 51VK; AND URDANETA 43VS

Along Amorsolo St. from Dela Rosa St. to near Antonio S. Arnaiz Ave. (Pasay Road) including Louie's THX Cinema, Mile Long Bldg., STI, The Gallery Bldg., KFC and McDonald's in Legaspi Village.

BETWEEN 11:00PM (WED., 11/23/05) AND 6:30AM (THU., 11/24/05) – PORTION OF CIRCUITS KAMAGONG 51VK; AND URDANETA 43VS

Along Adelantado St. from V. A. Rufino St. (Herrera) to Benavidez St. including Amorsolo Mansion, Alexander House Makati, Office of the Solicitor General Bldg., APMC Bldg., ODC Intl Plaza, Hoechst House, ACCRA Bldg., Philsteel Tower, The Legaspi Place, Dharmala Center Bldg., iBank Exchange Offices, Pilar Bldg., M. G. Bldg., Catlleya Condominium, YSS Laboratories and MGF Champaca Bldg. in Legaspi Village

REASON: Installation of new line switch and reconstruction works along Adelantado St. in Legaspi Village, Makati City in preparation for the new feeder circuits from the new Meralco-Legaspi substation

RIZAL PROVINCE (CAINTA)

BETWEEN 11:30PM (WED., 11/23/05) AND 5:00AM (THU., 11/24/05) – PORTION OF CIRCUIT CAINTA 44XG

Portion of A. Rodriguez Ave. and Policarpio St. from near Parola to and including DM Subd., Rose Ann Subd., Pabton Ville, A. Prime Subd., Villa Estela Subd., Rodler 2 Subd., Knitjoy Mfg., Policarpio Cpd., Felix Subd., St. Christopher Subd., Madera Homes, Venice Homes, Summergreen Subd., Baras Farms, Jabson Cpd., RSG Guevent Homes and Midtown Subd. in Bgy. San Andres.

REASON: Relocation of facilities along A. Rodriguez Ave. in Bgy. San Andres, Cainta, Rizal.

MANILA

BETWEEN 11:30PM AND 12:00MN (WED., 11/23/05) AND THEN BETWEEN 5:00AM AND 5:30AM (THU., 11/24/05) – PORTION OF CIRCUITS SAMPALOC 18K AND 23K

Portion Ma. Clara and San Lazaro Sts. from A.H. Lacson Ave. (Gov. Forbes) to and including portions of P. Guevarra, Milagros, A. Mendoza (Andalucia), Gen. Concepcion and Gelinos Sts. in Sampaloc.

Portion of Dapitan and Fugoso Sts. from Concepcion St. to and including portions of F. Huertas, P. Guevarra, A. Mendoza (Andalucia), E. Remegio (Requesens), Santander and Rosarito Sts. in Sampaloc.

BETWEEN 11:30PM (WED., 11/23/05) AND 5:30AM (THU., 11/24/05) – PORTION OF CIRCUITS SAMPALOC 23K, 19K AND 18K

Portion of A. H. Lacson Ave. (Forbes) from Meralco-Sampaloc substation to Ma. Clara St. including portion of Dapitan St. in Sampaloc.

REASON: Replacement of rotten pole and relocation of facilities along A. H. Lacson Ave. cor. Dapitan in Sampaloc, Manila.

THURSDAY TO FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 24 -25, 2005

MAKATI CITY

BETWEEN 11:00PM (THU., 11/24/05) AND 6:00AM (FRI., 11/25/05) – PORTION OF CIRCUIT URDANETA 51VS

Along Castro and Legaspi Sts. from near Dela Rosa St. to near V. A. Rufino St. (Herrera) including Jose Cojuangco & Sons Bldg., CPJ Bldg., Jaycem Bldg., F & M Lopez Bldg. II, F. Jacinto House, Glass Tower, Perla Mansion, Coyiuto House, Legaspi Park View Condominium (Vernida V Condominium) and SEDCCO I Bldg. in Legaspi Village.

REASON: Installation of overhead static wires along Castro and Legaspi Sts. in Legaspi Village, Makati City in preparation for the new feeder circuits from the new Meralco-Legaspi substation

QUEZON CITY (NOVALICHES)

BETWEEN 11:30PM (WED., 11/24/05) AND 5:00AM (THU., 11/25/05) – PORTION OF CIRCUIT NOVALICHES 48YJ

Portion of Quirino Highway from MERALCO-Novaliches Substation near Taurus St. in Bgy Kaligayahan to and including Plaza St.

Portion of Susano Road and Quirino Highway from Magno Subd. to and including Sta. Barbara St., De Jesus Compound, Novaliches Plaza Market and Mall.

Portion of Gen. Luis Ave. from Quirino Highway (Novaliches – IPO Road) to near Pasacola St. including Ambrocia Cruz St., T. S. Cruz Subd., Interville - 3 Subd., MCBI Subd., A. C. Homes, Doña Isaura Subd., Ramirez Compound, Doña Rosario Heights Subd., Buenamar Subd., Millionaire's Ville and Villa Verde Ave. in Novaliches Town Proper.

REASON: Relocation of facilities affected by road widening project along Quirino Highway in Novaliches Town Proper.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2005

BULACAN

BETWEEN 9:00AM AND 2:00PM – THE WHOLE OF CIRCUIT SAPANG PALAY 33YO

Bgys. Minuyan, Bitungol, Tigbe, Bigte, San Mateo, Paltoc, Bernabe Farm, Sanctuario de Paz Memorial Park, Mariane Homes, Guillen Marble, Minuyan Marble in Norzagaray; Newton Drive, Ipo Road, Road 1, Richmark Foods, Mardeka Marble Rococo Corp., Friendship Village, Bgys. San Martin, San Rafael, Sto. Niño, Sto. Cristo and Aniban in San Jose del Monte.

REASON: Replacement of rotten poles and correction of low sagging conductors in Sto. Cristo, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan.

MERALCO exerts all efforts to restore electric service as scheduled. However, there are instances when due to unavoidable circumstances, restoration may extend beyond the published schedule. For more information, please contact our **CALL CENTER** at telephone number **16211**, fax nos. **1622-8554**, or e-mail address **callcenter.tech.assist@meralco.com.ph**. For faster resolution of inquiries, please use the *Bill ID Number* or *Service Identification Number (SIN)* indicated in your electric bills. For those who prefer to receive this schedule via e-mail, simply write to us at **callcenter.tech.assist@meralco.com.ph** and type in the phrase **"Request for weekly schedule"**.

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This time, Mapua classmates want Erap in reunion

THIS TIME IT'S THE MAPUA INSTITUTE OF Technology high-school classmates of deposed President Estrada desiring his presence at their class reunion.

The MITHS Alumni Association has written to the Sandiganbayan Special Division asking that the detained ex-president be allowed to attend their homecoming on Nov. 26 at the Manila Pavilion Hotel.

In a letter dated Nov. 7, the association president, lawyer Mona Lisa Buencamino, said that aside from receiving his golden jubilarian award, Estrada will be the homecoming guest speaker.

Special Prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio immediately opposed the request and urged the court to deny the petition, as it did an earlier request of Estrada's Ateneo de Manila high school classmates.

Estrada transferred to the Mapua Institute of Technology High School (MITHS) after he was expelled from Ateneo for brawling. But the Ateneo High School Class of 1955 apparently still considers the disgraced leader a member of their batch.

The Special Division last Monday rejected Estrada's motion seeking permission to attend a golden jubilee celebration concert of his Ateneo high school class, which was held the following day at the Meralco Theater in Pasig.

In rejecting Estrada's motion, the Special Division said the golden jubilee did not appear to be an occasion that was important enough to justify the considerable expense that the government would incur to safeguard Estrada's safety and security.

"The Court finds no imperative humanitarian consideration or time-honored Filipino custom or tradition, which can convince the Court to grant the motion," it added.

Villa-Ignacio instead asked the court to recommend to the organizers of the Mapua homecoming to visit Estrada at his detention rest house in Tanay, Rizal where he could give his message to his fellow alumni. The organizers could then personally hand Estrada his award, the state prosecutor said.

Nelson F. Flores

Jailed Iranian is press freedom awardee

AKBAR GANJI, A leading INvestigative journalist who is now one of Iran's most renowned political prisoners, has been awarded the 2006 Golden Pen of Freedom, the annual press freedom prize of the World Association of Newspapers.

Ganji, who is serving the fourth year of a six-year prison sentence, is the author of the book "Dungeon of Ghosts," in which he implicates the former president, Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, and other leading conservative figures in the murders of five writers and intellectuals in 1998. The book is said to have been a major factor in the conservative defeat in parliamentary elections of February 2000.

Ganji has reportedly been tortured in prison and has gone on two long hunger strikes. He has defiantly refused to renounce his critique of the state, even if it could win his release. In a letter recently smuggled out of prison, he wrote: "Let it be known that if learning my lesson is to denounce my previous opinions, Ganji will never learn his lesson."

He was arrested in April 2000 following his participation in a Berlin conference in which political and social reform in Iran were publicly debated. He was sentenced to six years in prison in 2001 for "insulting religious edicts and figures, threatening national security and dissemination of propaganda against the Islamic system."

The Golden Pen award, which will be presented on June 5, 2006, at the World Newspaper Congress and World Editors Forum in Moscow, Russia, recognizes Ganji's outstanding defense and promotion of press freedom.

"Akbar Ganji fights for freedom of expression in Iran but his efforts are watched around the globe," said the Board of the Paris-based WAN, meeting in Copenhagen, Denmark. "His remarkable resistance to repression and his steadfast refusal to be silenced, at great personal cost, is an inspiration to journalists everywhere. It is through courageous journalists who do not capitulate – even in the face of long prison terms and even death – that freedom advances."

Walking Time Bombs, Defused.

Thanks To Bariatric Surgery, Clayton And Iree Now Have A New Lease On Life.

OBESITY IS BAD NEWS. *Morbid Obesity* is pretty much a death sentence.

And Clayton was on Death Row. At 383 pounds, he had it all: diabetes, heart disease, hypertension, bone and joint disease, reflux, even sleep apnea. His sister Iree wasn't much better, weighing in at an impressive 250 pounds.

Because of his incredible bulk, simple things like crossing the street and self-bathing were impossible. Despite repeated stabs at diet and exercise, nothing was working. Clayton, and Iree, needed help, fast.

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It worked. Thanks to Clayton's determination, today he is nearly half the man he used to be: 230 pounds, and counting. Iree has lost a whopping hundred pounds, so far. More importantly, their lives have changed beyond recognition, happier than words can describe. And safe from serious health risks.

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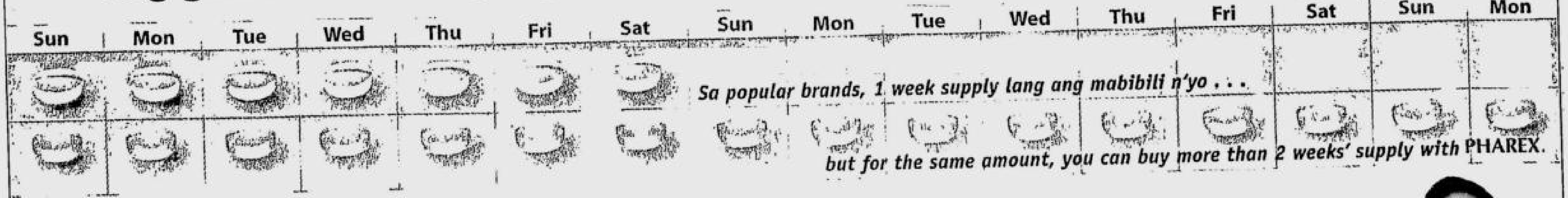

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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

US admits using phosphorous in Iraq

WASHINGTON—THE PENTAGON ON WEDNESday acknowledged using incendiary white-phosphorous munitions in a 2004 offensive against insurgents in the Iraqi city of Fallujah and defended their use as legal, amid concerns by arms control advocates.

Army Lt. Col. Barry Venable, a Pentagon spokesperson, said the US military had not used the highly flammable weapons against civilians, contrary to an Italian state television report this month that stated the munitions were used against men, women and children in Fallujah who were burned to the bone.

"We categorically deny that claim," Venable said.

"It's part of our conventional-weapons inventory and we use it like we use any other conventional weapon," added Bryan Whitman, another Pentagon spokesperson.

Venable said white phosphorous weapons are not outlawed or banned by any convention.

However, a protocol to an accord on conventional weapons which took effect in 1983 forbids using incendiary weapons against civilians.

The protocol also forbids their use against military targets within concentrations of civilians, except when the targets are clearly separated from civilians and "all feasible precautions" are taken to avoid civilian casualties.

The United States is a party to the overall accord, but has not ratified the incendiary-weapons protocol or another involving blinding laser weapons.

White phosphorous munitions are primarily used by the US military to make smoke screens and mark targets, but also as an incendiary weapon, the Pentagon said. They are not considered chemical weapons. The substance ignites easily in air at temperatures of about 86 degrees F (30 C), and its fire can be difficult to extinguish.

Daryl Kimball, executive director of the Washington-based Arms Control Association, questioned whether the US military was using the weapons in a manner consistent with the conventional weapons convention.

"White phosphorous weapons should not be used just like any other conventional weapon," Kimball said.

Kimball called for an independent review of how the United States was using the weapons and possibly an investigation by countries that are parties to the convention "to determine whether their use in Iraq is appropriate or not." *Reuters*

US deaths mount in Iraq as public swings against war

BAGHDAD—THE US MILITARY THURSDAY ANnounced the death of a US soldier killed in Iraq, the 10th serviceman to die in two days at a time when US opinion is turning against the war.

The latest victim, who died Wednesday of wounds sustained in a Baghdad bomb explosion, brings to at least 2,080 the number of US military personnel killed in Iraq since the March 2003 invasion, according to an AFP tally based on the independent Iraq Coalition Casualty Count.

Five Marines also died Wednesday in a firefight in Ubaydi near the Syrian border in western Iraq, the military said.

The New York Times newspaper, which has a correspondent with troops in the area, said 11 Marines were also wounded in the clash which erupted after they were caught in an ambush on a farm on the outskirts of the town.

Meanwhile, a USA Today/CNN/Gallup poll released Wednesday said 54 percent of Americans want US troops withdrawn from Iraq within the next 12 months.

In 1970, a pivotal year in which sentiment swung against the Vietnam war, a similar number wanted US troops withdrawn from that country, USA Today noted.

President George Bush's administration, facing growing pressure over the war, has launched a counterattack against critics who say it manipulated prewar intelligence to win support for the Iraq invasion, challenging both opposition Democrats and the press.

"I expect there to be criticism, but when Democrats say that I deliberately misled the Congress and the people, that's irresponsible," Bush said Thursday during a visit to South Korea.

Bush took the lead in the campaign in a Nov. 11 speech when he branded his Democrat critics as "irresponsible" for having called on the government to declare a timetable to withdraw US troops from Iraq.

But his administration was dealt a setback Tuesday when Democrats and Republicans in the Senate supported an amendment to require the president to make regular progress reports on the war, just a year ahead of elections that could weaken Republican control of Congress.

US Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld Tuesday warned against a precipitous withdrawal from Iraq, where US numbers currently number just over 150,000.

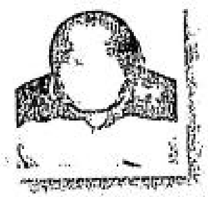
The United States wants to hand over responsibility to Iraqis as soon as possible and leave, Rumsfeld said.

"But not in a manner that is precipitous, not in a manner that would inject instability into the situation, and not in a manner that would suggest to a terrorist that all he has to do is wait us out," he added.

"Because if they have their way to impose their medieval vision on that country in that part of the world there would be an enormous price to pay," he added.

Bush has said US forces will draw down as Iraqi security forces build up. *AFP*

MORE AND MORE FILIPINOS ARE SAYING GOODBYE TO HAIR LOSS—THANKS TO NU/HART



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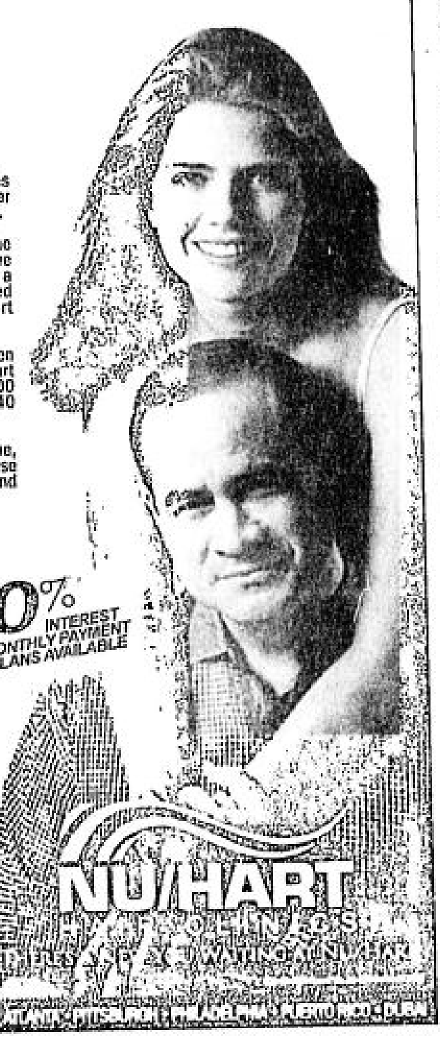
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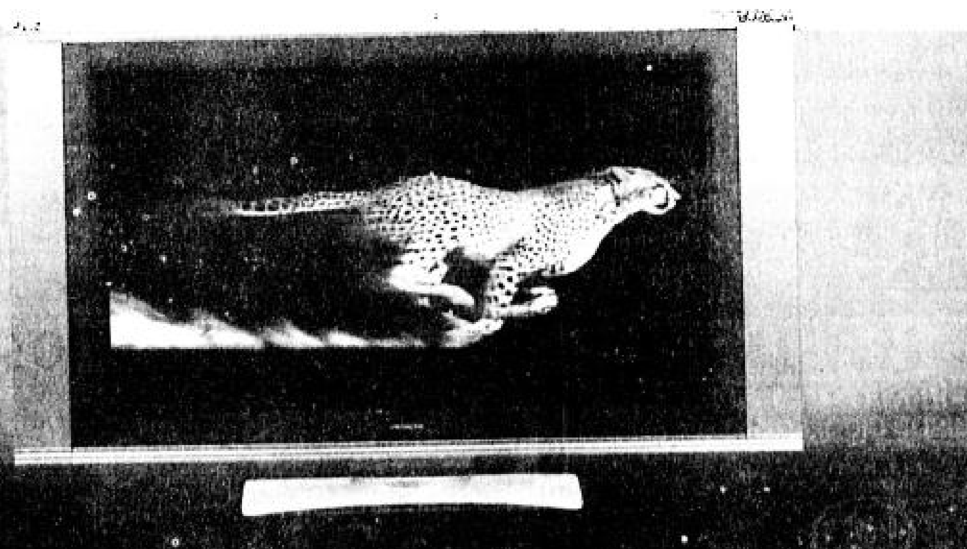

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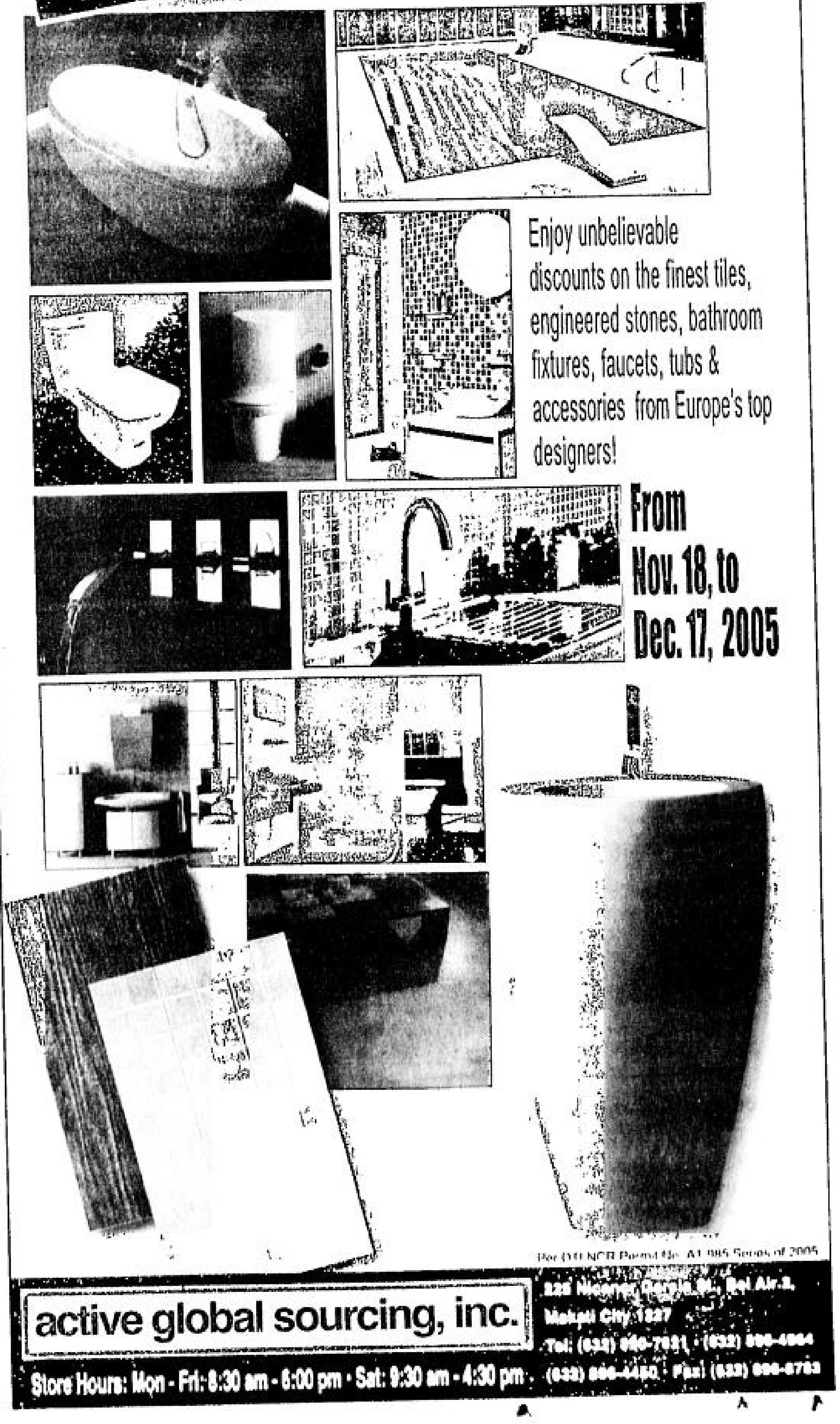

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WHO: Bird flu not passing from human to human in China

BEIJING—THE WORLD HEALTH Organization said Thursday it sees no sign that bird flu is being passed from person to person after China reported its first cases of human infection.

"There is not any evidence for human transmission so far," said Henk Bekedam, the WHO representative in China. "If there would be something like that, we would expect more people would be unexpectedly dying of very severe pneumonia."

The health ministry on Wednesday reported China's first human cases of bird flu. It said there were two confirmed cases—a 24-year-old woman who died and a 9-year-old boy who recovered. It said the boy's 12-year-old sister, who died, was a suspected case.

The H5N1 bird flu virus has killed at least 64 people in Asia since 2003 and experts have warned that it could mutate into a form that can easily spread between people. Millions could die in a pandemic.

Asked whether there was any sign that China was facing a flu epidemic, Bekedam said, "If there's evidence of human-to-human transmission, there will be small clusters. We are not at that stage."

But he warned of the need to be vigilant.

"We need to closely monitor the virus," Bekedam said. "The key is that at a certain moment, there will be changes, that we will be able to detect it early."

That means strong surveillance systems and quick responses, he said. "That's also a challenge not only for China, but a challenge for the whole world," he said.

China denied that it was covering up any human cases of bird flu, following heavy criticism of its sluggishness of its reporting its outbreak of severe acute respiratory syndrome—or SARS—which emerged in 2002.

"The Chinese government has taken a very responsible attitude," said foreign ministry spokesperson Liu Jianchao. "It is not necessary for us to cover up." *AP*

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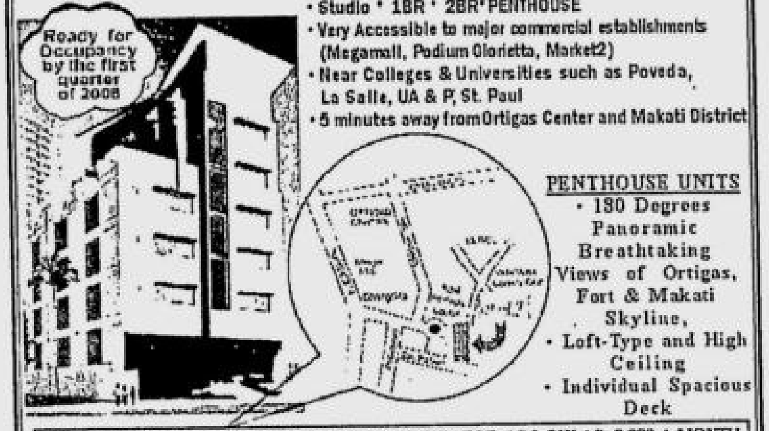

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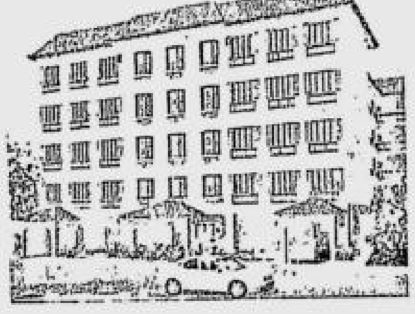

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CIA says Fidel Castro has Parkinson's disease

WASHINGTON—THE CIA HAS concluded that Cuban President Fidel Castro is suffering from Parkinson's disease and could have difficulty coping with the duties of office as his condition worsens, an official said Wednesday.

The assessment, completed in recent months, suggests the nonfatal but debilitating disease had progressed far enough to warrant questions among US policymakers about the communist country's future.

"The assessment is that he has the disease and that his condition has progressed. There appear to be more outward signs," said an official familiar with the assessment.

Bush administration officials and members of Congress have been briefed on the findings about Castro. The Cuban leader, 79, has been in power on the island of 11 million people since leading a 1959 revolution and has long been at ideological odds with Washington.

But US diplomats played down the significance of the CIA assessment and said they were not using such intelligence to make policy decisions about Castro or Cuba.

"Do we see him losing his grip over the country? No," said a Department of State official, who asked not to be named because he was discussing intelligence conclusions. "We are not in any way adapting how we plan for the day Castro is gone based on an assessment that he might have Parkinson's."

The CIA based its assessment on a variety of evidence, including observations of Castro's public appearances and the opinions of doctors employed by the espionage agency.

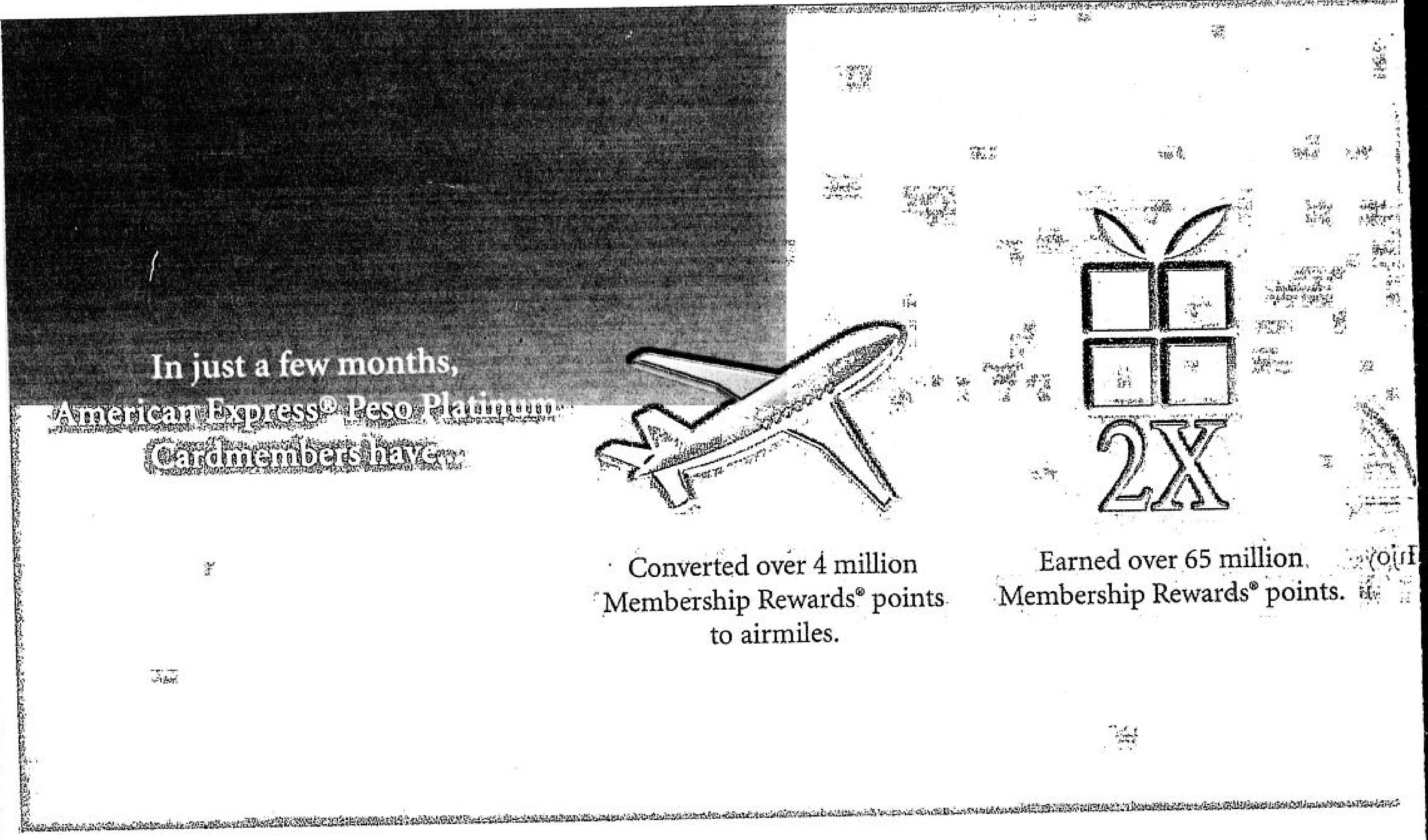
"If the assessment is correct, you could expect there to be effects on his ability to come to grips with fresh challenges over the next several years," said the US official who had seen the CIA report. He spoke on condition of anonymity because the document is classified.

Cuban officials declined to comment on the CIA assessment.

They insisted Castro was in good health when he failed to show up at a summit of Ibero-American leaders in Spain in October.

Castro has long been the subject of rumors of illnesses, including Parkinson's, despite a generally strong physical constitution.

Reuters



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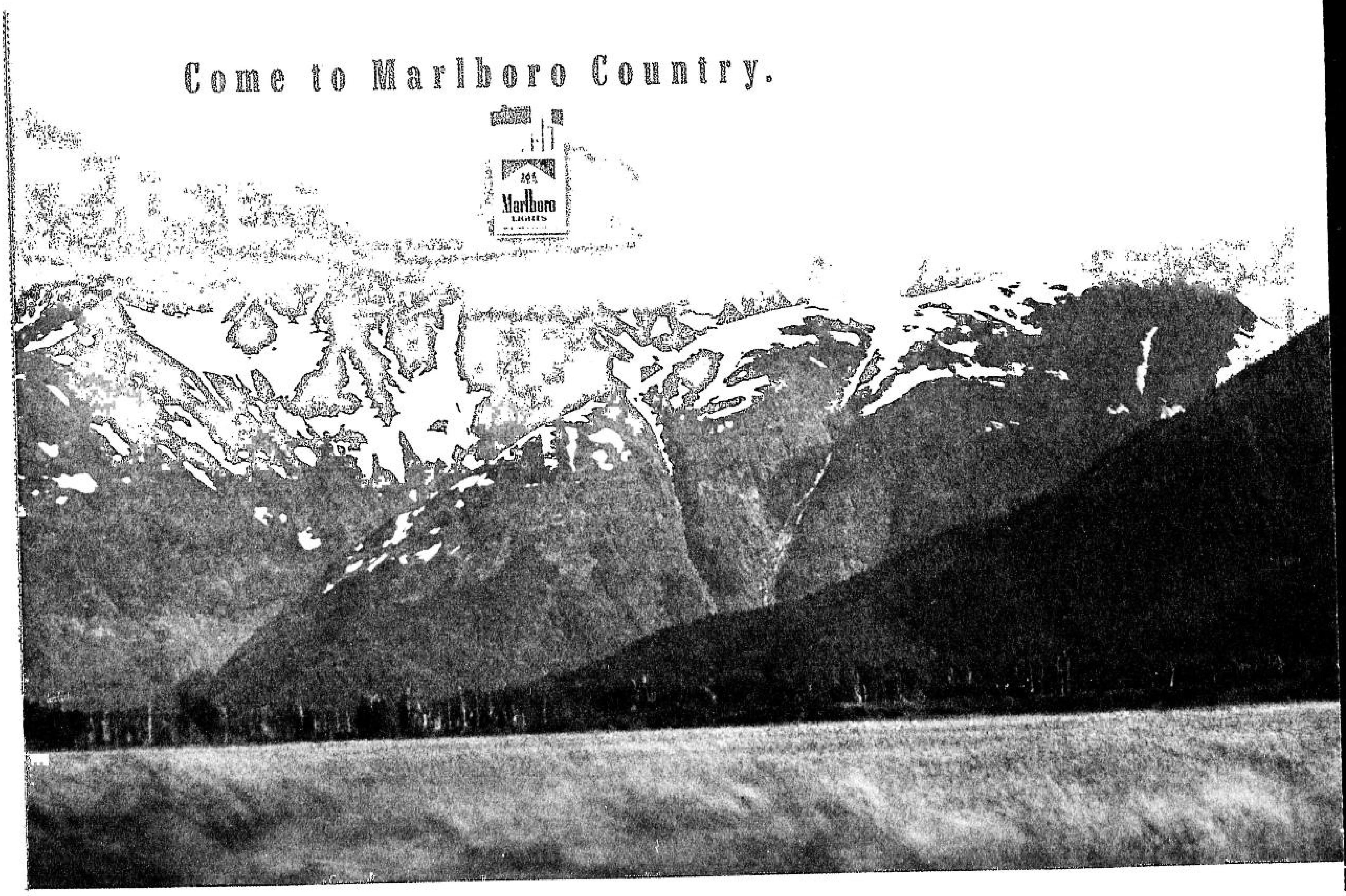

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Woodward says Bush official leaked Plame's position to him 2 years ago

WASHINGTON—THE CIA LEAK probe on Wednesday ensnared Washington Post journalist Bob Woodward, who disclosed that he was told about CIA operative Valerie Plame nearly a month before her secret identity was revealed and apologized to his editor for keeping him in the dark.

The disclosure that Woodward gave a sworn deposition on Monday to special prosecutor Patrick Fitzgerald comes more than two weeks after the indictment and resignation of Vice President Dick Cheney's chief of staff, Lewis "Scooter" Libby, and after Fitzgerald said the bulk of his probe was complete.

In his testimony to Fitzgerald, Woodward said he revealed under oath that a senior Bush administration official casually told him in mid-June 2003 about Plame's position at the CIA.

That appeared to contradict Fitzgerald's contention that Libby was the first official to leak to reporters.

The testimony was a sign prosecutors are exploring new leads in the investigation that has reached into the top levels of the White House. It also prompted the Post's executive editor to publicly chastise one of the best-known journalists in the United States for withholding the information from him.

One of the two Post reporters who led the newspaper's coverage of the 1970s Watergate scandal that brought down President Richard Nixon, Woodward had dismissed the leak investigation in television and radio appearances as laughable and referred to Fitzgerald as "a junkyard dog."

On the eve of Libby's indictment, Woodward said he saw no evidence of criminal intent, without disclosing his earlier conversations with Libby and others.

Woodward wrote in a first-person account in the Post on Wednesday that he met with Libby on June 27, 2003, and told Fitzgerald it was possible Plame was discussed. But Woodward testified, "I had no recollection of doing so."

Reuters

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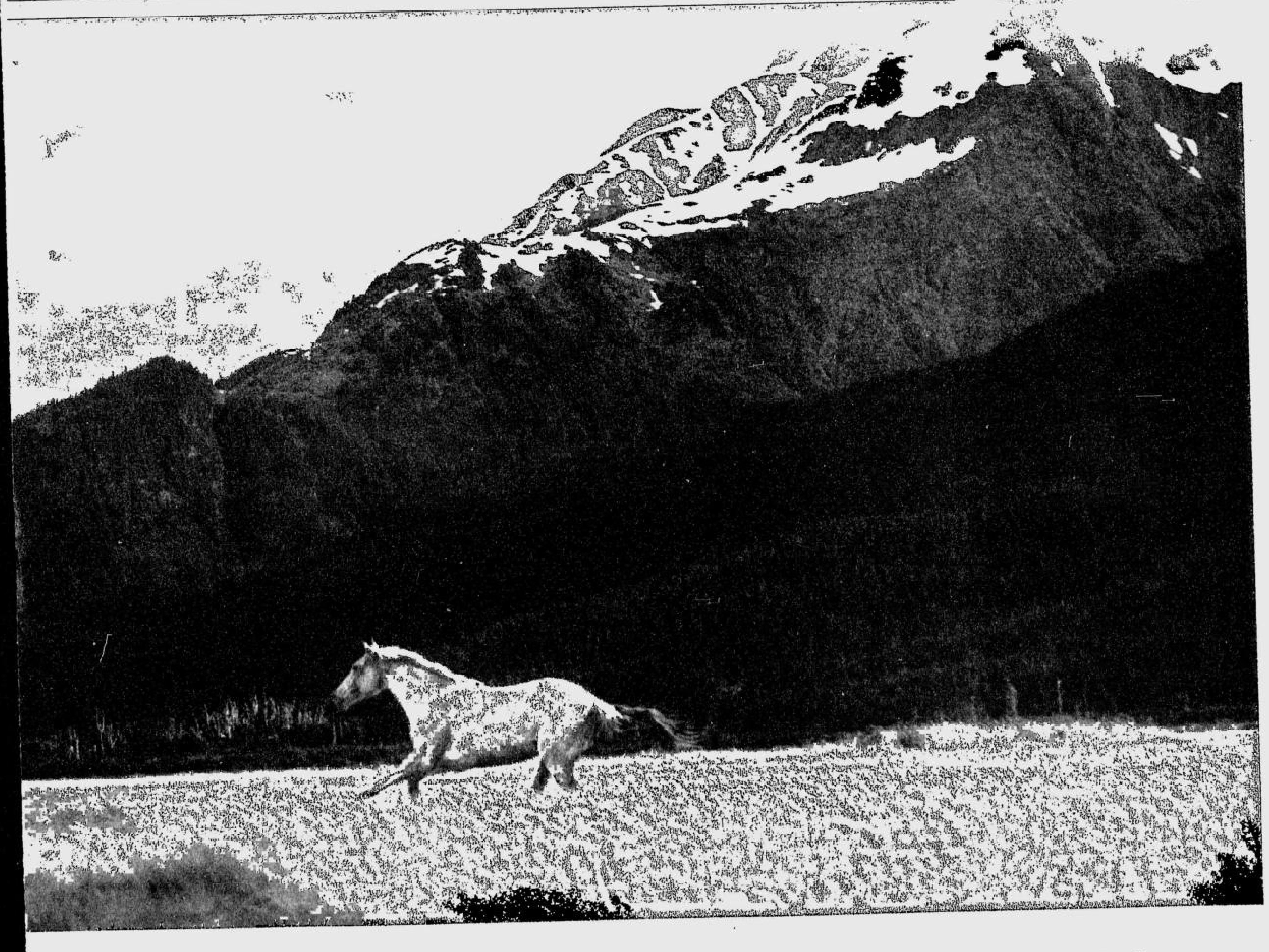
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OPINION

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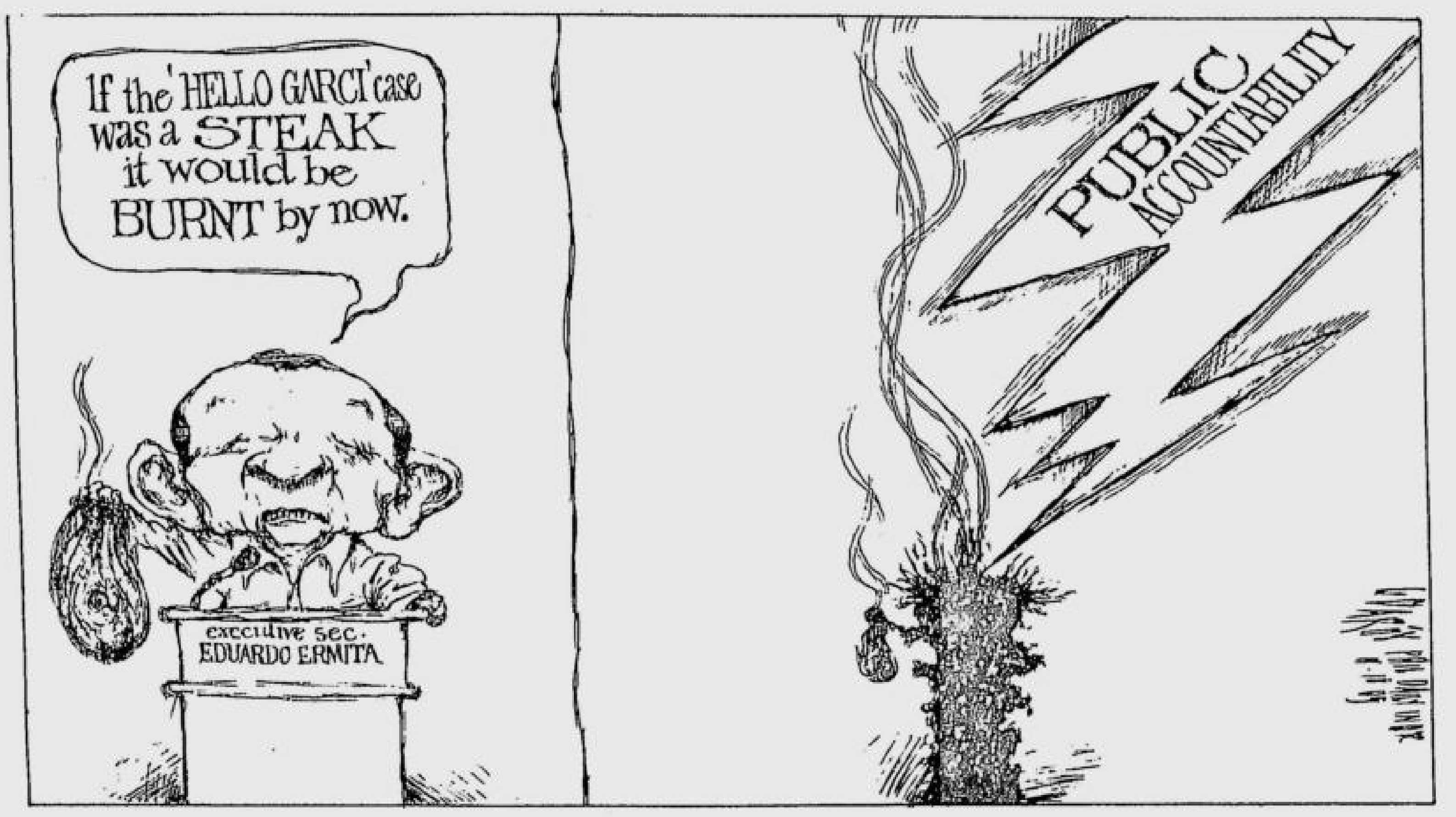
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PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY

Little brown brother

EDITORIAL

WHAT'S WRONG WITH JUSTICE SECRETARY Raul Gonzalez handing over American servicemen accused of rape to the custody of US authorities? Isn't that what the Visiting Forces Agreement very clearly stipulates in this case? Katrina Legarda, the lawyer of the victim, says quite a lot is wrong with it. And it begins—get this—with a phone call.

According to Legarda, Gonzalez responded quickly to a phone call from a US Embassy official early on Nov. 2, by making a phone call directing the Olongapo City prosecutor to immediately turn over the suspects to American custody. Because of this, Legarda says, government prosecutors were deprived of the opportunity to mount a thorough investigation close to the date of the crime. And the police weren't given a chance to arrest the servicemen.

As things stand now, Legarda says, the Subic rape case promises to be more difficult to prosecute than the rape case against then Rep. Romeo Jalosjos. That case took 450 days from arraignment to sentencing. The VFA states that if a case is not decided with one calendar year, the United States is freed of all its obligations under the agreement.

Another lawyer, Edwin Lacierda, who teaches Constitutional Law at Far Eastern University, has enumerated the possible legal tactics that the US servicemen's defense could resort to, and the time such tactics could use up. Consider the numbers: 60 days for a preliminary investigation. Then 15 days for a period of appeal to the Department of Justice, and 60 days for the DOJ to resolve the appeal. An additional 30 days may be needed to resolve a motion to quash. Add another 30 days for a motion for reconsideration to be decided. That's a total of 255 days before the case finally reaches the point when the accused can be arraigned.

Once the arraignment takes place, the pre-trial would commence in 30 days. After the pre-trial, a period of 30 days must pass from the receipt of the pre-trial order before the case can be set for trial. By this time, 315 days will have elapsed, leaving just 50 days for the actual trial, including the presentation of witnesses for both sides and deciding the verdict. But even this slender timeframe doesn't leave room for other delaying tactics the defense might employ.

Legarda, on sensible grounds, has already requested the transfer of the preliminary investigation from Olongapo City to Manila. She says there have been too many cases when local authorities showed too much leniency toward Americans accused of a similar crime.

But with a brusque "the circumstances are different there," Gonzalez has denied Legarda's request (apparently without even having read her letter). He'd rather that Olongapo officials go through the motions of making an investigation, regardless of what the defense considers as a deficient track record and without taking into account the fact certain circumstances could either compromise the case or place its outcome in doubt. All of which can only contribute to the perception that the Philippine government is out to do the American government a favor.

At the moment, there is no case before the courts. Accusations have been made, and they need to be investigated. Olongapo City officials might protest vehemently that the accusations of their being soft on Americans accused of wrongdoing are malicious. Maybe. But this country cannot afford to have anything happen that will cast doubt on the resolve of the government to pursue this case until justice is done.

What's wrong with Gonzalez's behavior is that it is not the job of a Philippine official to respond in an extremely prompt manner to American phone calls, but rather to take his time to make sure the correct procedures are followed and all legal requirements are attended to. He should be moving, not with indecent haste but with deliberate speed, to assure his primary constituency—his countrymen—that justice is being done, while assuring the Americans that the law, as the Arroyo administration's defenders have so often argued, "may be harsh, but it is the law."

To jump quickly to one's feet and dial the phone the moment Americans come knocking is to make oneself a little brown brother, an obliging lackey of the United States.

'Garci' cannot be closed unless. . .

As I See It

Neal H. Cruz

READING LAST TUESDAY'S NEWSPAPERS made me confused about two of Ate Glue's most ardent defenders: Environment Secretary Michael Defensor (also called "Little Mike" and "Little Defensor") and National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales (also called "that other Gonzales!"). Is Little Mike the secretary of environment and natural resources or Ate Glue's spokesman and media czar? Did the attack of hypertension that Gonzales suffered when he could not answer senators' questions on the Venable contract affect his heart or his brain?

Reacting to the statement of Archbishop Angel Lagdameo, incoming head of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP), that there should be a "closure" to the "Hello Garci" scandal, Little Mike said "it is already closed," and Gonzales said the "Hello Garci" tapes are "insignificant."

Insignificant? That is the root of all the problems of Ate Glue and "that other Gonzales!" says it is "insignificant"? She was caught in the tape plotting with Garci to cheat in the 2004 elections and made 80 percent of the Filipinos conclude that she did not win in the polls, she stole the presidency from Fernando Poe Jr. and therefore she is a bogus president. That is why the people are angrily marching in the streets and telling her to step down.

Closed? How can it be closed when it is like an open sore, rotting, exuding pus and stinking like hell? An honest canvassing of votes in Congress could have closed it, but Ate Glue's allies there prevented that. The conclusion of the electoral protest in the Presidential Electoral Tribunal could have closed it, but FPJ died and the Supreme Court threw out the substitute protest of his widow Susan Roces. The impeachment complaint could have closed it, but the House blocked that, too. Ate Glue's allies blocked all avenues for its closure, so how can there be a closure?

There can be no closure and no peace for Ate Glue unless she proves without a doubt that she really won the presidency "fair and square." But how can she do that when she refuses to face the music and instead resorts to all sorts of subterfuges to prevent a proper hearing of the case?

That is why the people are protesting: their government has closed all the legal avenues to find out who really won in the elections. That is why the people have organized the Citizens' Congress for Truth and Accountability so that evidence for and against Ate Glue can be presented and heard and understood by them. But Ate Glue refuses to defend herself. Why?

Any sensible person knows that an innocent person accused of something he or she did not do would be eager to defend him/herself and prove that he/she is innocent. So why does Ate Glue refuse to do that? The reason can only be that she knows she is guilty. So the only defense left is to hide, like Garci and Joc-Joc Bolante, except that Ate Glue cannot hide physically and so she has to hide behind technicalities, such as that the "Hello Garci" scandal is already "closed" because Congress and the Supreme Court have closed the door to truth.

But there can be closure only after the people see and decide for themselves who is their rightful president.

That is the closure that Lagdameo meant, not the artificial "closure" cited by Little Mike. His "closure" is that of the door to truth being banged on the face of the people.

While there is doubt about Ate Glue's legitimacy, she will have no peace. Every year, an impeachment case will be filed against her and sooner or later, it will succeed. For she cannot fool and bribe all of the people all of the time. And she would eventually run out of money with which to bribe the congressmen who will decide whether or not to send her to the Senate for trial.

* * *

Another thing that confuses me about Little Mike is whether he is the environment secretary or Ate Glue's media czar, and not the Pinocchio of the administration, Ignacio Bunye. Instead of protecting the country's forests, Little Mike is telling the owners and managers of broadcast networks how to run their business. Like his boss, Little Mike cannot even do his own job well but he is telling others how to do theirs.

He is telling publishers and the networks to put less news about the opposition and more show-biz gossip. That's what the public wants, he said. This gives us an idea of the kind of thinking that goes on in Malacañang and it explains why Ate Glue's administration is in such a mess.

The government owns one television network, has sequestered and operates two more, plus a number of radio stations. Why doesn't Ate Glue appoint him to run these networks? Then Little Mike can test his theory that more show-biz gossip means good business for media organizations.

The three government-run TV networks, by the way, already shut out the opposition from their newscasts and presumably replaces these with show-biz *chismis*. So why can't they get more viewers? Why are their ratings very low? Is Little Mike like the little frog in the big pond puffing himself up to look bigger?

As for that other Gonzales, his "medical leave" is over, and he is back at work as national security adviser. But not so fast: He is still facing contempt charges in the Senate until he answers those questions on the Venable contract. Meaning he should be back in detention until he gives the answers.

What happened to the sharp teeth of that other Arroyo in the Senate? Did he lose them? Why is he so silent on the contempt charge against that other Gonzales?

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Passion for Reason

Raul C. Pangalangan

"MEN AND WOMEN WHO ARE ALLOWED TO control their own wealth will eventually insist on controlling their own lives and their own future," US President George W. Bush said just three days before he arrives in Beijing. "As China reforms its economy, its leaders are finding that once the door to freedom is opened even a crack, it cannot be closed. By meeting the legitimate demands of its citizens for freedom and openness, China's leaders can help their country grow into a modern, prosperous and confident nation."

In an analogy that would surely vex the Chinese communists, Bush spoke of the "road of reform and openness" taken by Taiwan. "Modern Taiwan is free and democratic and prosperous. By embracing freedom at all levels, Taiwan has delivered prosperity to its people and created a free and democratic Chinese society."

Bush is due to land in China tomorrow, after attending the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) summit in Busan, South Korea, with leaders of 20 other countries in the Pacific Rim. These views were earlier expressed by US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld on a visit to Beijing last month, when he called on China to follow the example of most other Asian governments in adopting open and accountable government.

These two cowboys, of course, are no poster boys for the tolerance and transparency that they preach to others. However, they do resurrect a genuine old conundrum: Is free market economics compatible with illiberal politics? Will the Invisible Hand of the market eventually obsolesce the iron-fisted state?

China's overheated economy is expanding at more than 9 percent. For a billion Chinese in Maoism's heyday, the "three haves" were a bicycle, a watch and a sewing machine. Today, they have upped the ante and their "three haves" are a car, an apartment and trips abroad.

Meanwhile, police records show that public protests numbered nearly 60,000 in 2003, up 15 percent from 2002 and eight times over from a decade ago. These protests are small, localized expressions of ferment over corruption, bullying by public officials, police abuse, or forced displacement of villagers—and, significantly for Pinoys, are often mobilized through cell phones and text messages. (But a Politburo member has cited the dangers of "sudden mass incidents," and called for tighter measures lest they lead, I suppose, to another ground swell like the bloody summer of 1989 in front of the Gate of Heavenly Peace.)

Thus, when a whole generation of MBAs takes over from the old apparatchiks, inspired by the profit-motive rather than by communist correctness, it is assumed that economic freedom should naturally segue into political democracy.

Will all these lead to the rule of law? Perhaps. It may lead to greater transparency in state contracts, and increased legal protection for individuals. According to an October 2005 party document, entitled "Building of Political Democracy in China," "Major aspects of China's politics, economics, culture and social life are now within the purview of the rule of law." It also stressed reforms in the judicial system and in the legal restraints on government power. Even as a piece of propaganda, this tells us that John Adams' ideal of a "government of laws and not of men" has been embraced in the Middle Kingdom.

But will it lead to democracy? No, I cannot imagine that the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) will "wither away" any time soon and surrender power to a republic. Instead, it will consolidate itself and assimilate all other power centers. Already, the party has begun to recruit businessmen into its ranks, a heresy that would make the Great Helmsman turn in his grave (or at least the mummified version, in his mausoleum). Maybe that is why China's rulers are confident that they can unleash market forces yet keep politics under a tight rein.

Filipino pragmatists will instantly detect a Faustian pact. The party secures the loyalty of infidel businessmen. In turn, the businessmen say, OK, I'll sign up, anyway it's good for business. It doesn't hurt to know the political bosses and, who knows, maybe they'll throw some contract our way. Ever the pragmatist, the Pinoy would surmise that very soon, the moneybags will own the politicos (much like *jueteng* lords handpick and bankroll the town mayors). That, we would say, will be the end of the CCP as we know it, or "agency capture" as we teach in administrative law.

But we won't be entirely correct. The CCP is one enduring "agency" that has managed to lure its opponents into the fold. The party will engulf the brand-new comrade entrepreneurs, their former "class enemies." So what if B-School graduates cannot in their heart of hearts truly swear by Marx's creed? They need not believe the dogma which says, "From each according to his abilities, to each according to his work." All they need to believe is that the party—and the party alone—is the font of power. Call it Mafia politics in ideological garb. Call it Machiavelli without the Florentine Republic. Call it the Asian sense of power, oblivious to ideas and attuned mainly to personal bonds, indifferent to causes unless they come with neat labels and the imprimatur of earthly pontiffs.

* * *

Lawyer Senen de Santos calls on alumni of the UP Elementary School, UP High School, UP Preparatory School and UPIS to attend the LAHAT KASAMA-BALIK UP HIGH 2005 General Homecoming on Saturday, Dec. 10, from 1 p.m. onward, at the UPIS grounds along Katipunan Avenue, Quezon City. UPIS Batch 1980, this year's host, will lead alumni in honoring UP High Batch 1955. Log on to www.lahat-kasama.com for more information.

* * *

Comments to passionforreason@gmail.com

Forest fire in Samar

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

THE ADMINISTRATION IS REAPING A BLISTERing whirlwind unleashed by its decision lifting the 16-year moratorium on logging in the protected forest preserves on Samar island, giving Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile's San Jose Timber Corp. the go ahead to cut timber on its 95,770-hectare concession area in the 333,300-hectare Samar Island Nature Park .

The decision issued on Aug. 16 ignited a political forest fire, with wider political ramifications than the confines of Samar, where an ad hoc grass-roots coalition of outraged citizens, environmentalist groups and Catholic Church prelates has mounted a protest movement calling on Environment Secretary Michael Defensor to rescind his Aug. 16 order.

Although Samar is distant from the center of political turmoil in Manila, where the administration continues to be under siege from its opponents who question her legitimacy, the Samar political firestorm opens a new front of attack on the administration. As such, the controversy is an unwelcome development to the government which does not need any more enemies than it can handle. It finds the administration struggling to extinguish too many political fires.

The fact is that the administration is its worse enemy. It has a penchant for creating problems for itself, including the Venable contract over which the administration came into collision with the Senate over the refusal of National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales to reveal details of the contract. That contract, especially its feature inviting foreign financing in the study of issues on constitutional change, was utterly unnecessary.

The decision to lift the Samar logging moratorium added fuel to the controversies engulfing the administration. It has also given more ammunition to its enemies as they continue to wage their unflagging campaign to bring down the government of President Macapagal-Arroyo earlier than 2010.

The resumption of logging in Samar's protected forest reserves has raised concerns about the safety of its people against catastrophic flooding and destruction, of which they had a foretaste in 1989 when floods and mudslides killed scores of people. Another issue it raises is patronage politics. Environmentalist groups and Church leaders in the province have charged that the DENR decision, which favor Enrile's company, was payback for Enrile's support for the President.

Critics have pointed out that the resumption of logging would allow the SJTC to make up for lost revenue during the 16 years that the logging moratorium was in place.

The President has an opportunity to prevent the Samar political forest fire from spreading and linking up with the other issues in Manila by rescinding the DENR order as the Samar protest groups have demanded. The issues raised by the protesters are not only confined to Samar but are also catching fire with environmentalist groups in the national capital. The question is whether the President will heed the demand of the people of Samar and the protest groups or give priority to Enrile's interests to maintain his political support. The President is paying a heavy price for her Faustian pact with Enrile. She could cut the price and control the damage by rescinding the order lifting the logging moratorium.

In this political quid pro quo, there are clearly two obvious losers: the President and the Samar forests and its people. The Samar bishops have summed up the President's dilemma and options with their statement saying, "To say that Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile and SJTC have prior rights to the old growth forest is a legal assertion. It does not reflect true justice or morality. In truth, the people of Samar have more prior rights than either."

It is hard to dispute the bishops' argument that "Justice truly dictates that the natural wealth of Samar Island benefit Samar's poor and not end up in the hands of the already wealthy few."

The choices are clear for the President. If she does not rescind the logging resumption order, the issue will not only continue to fester but will also connect with other issues trumping her in Manila.

Although the lifting of the moratorium on logging exercises primarily the Samar people, it will not drive them to march to Manila to join the rabble that has been taking to the streets and demanding the resignation of the President. They are so poor that they cannot afford the fare to Makati or Edsa. Their main concern is their livelihood and saving the natural resources of their island. The forest issue directly affects their daily lives. Legitimacy issues, which are the main concern of the Manila middle class, have little relevance to their lives.

But Samar should worry the President because the protest against the deal with Enrile represents an erosion of her rural constituency. Up to this point, the President has deftly played the rural card and the resentment of the provinces against imperial Manila's dominance in political decision-making and revenue distribution to defeat efforts to oust her—especially through the impeachment action in the House of Representatives.

It was the vote of the rural constituency, represented by the votes of congressmen reflecting rural opinion, to dismiss the impeachment complaints that saved the President. The Samar forest issue sends a warning that she could lose the rural constituency once there is a conjunction between rural and urban issues.

Postscript to Babao case

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

I KNEW SOMETHING DIDN'T SMELL RIGHT when I first read the story about how broadcaster Julius Babao allegedly paid or facilitated the bail bond of Dawud Santos, a suspected terrorist.

The story was front-page material not because of Santos, who seems to be but small fry in the terrorist network, if ever, or just because Babao, who anchors ABS-CBN's primetime news show "TV Patrol World," was involved. Rather, the account made it to the day's banner story mainly because of the source: no less than President Macapagal-Arroyo herself.

The President disclosed the "findings" of a military intelligence report linking Babao to Santos during a lunch with INQUIRER columnist Ramon Tulfo. And from this disclosure of what in the end turned out to be "raw" information based on "circumstantial evidence" sprang a hydra-headed story series in which Babao was variously portrayed as a security risk, a terrorist coddler if not a terrorist himself, or at best, a careless journalist who crossed ethical boundaries by using his influence to interfere in a legal process.

To its credit, ABS-CBN conducted an internal investigation that centered on two central questions. One: Did Babao pay for or guarantee Santos' bail? Two: Was he guilty of ethical violations in going after his exclusive with Santos?

And to his credit, Babao went on voluntary leave from his reporting and anchoring duties while the investigation, which began Oct. 30, was ongoing. He resumed his duties last Monday, Nov. 14.

While much of the material discussed in the investigation committee's report is well known, it's worth rehashing the sequence of events and discussing how a conclusion was reached if only because, in the words of the committee: "This could be a landmark case for Filipino journalists, particularly those in television and radio, to help set the boundary between public service and intervention in a legal process."

Other media organizations, including newspapers, do conduct internal investigations into the conduct of reporters, editors and other editorial personnel. But most are conducted in private, the procedure and consequent course of action usually kept from the public. Since ABS-CBN has chosen to go public with its findings, the report should serve as a useful guide to journalists and journalism scholars.

* * *

THE STORY broke on Oct. 30 after this newspaper reported that the President had told Tulfo that, based on an intelligence report by the Intelligence Service of the AFP, Babao had paid bail to release Santos. Separately, Rear Adm. Tirso Danga, the military's chief for intelligence, told reporters on Oct. 27 that a "media man," subsequently identified as Babao, paid P200,000 as bail for Santos during a bail hearing earlier this year. Later, when Babao's name failed to appear in any of the bail bond documents, Jonathan Tiongco, who had volunteered to help raise money for Santos' bail, said Babao's role had been to use his influence as a media person as "guarantor."

A few days after the story broke, and after the President refused to comment further on her disclosure, throwing the ball to military intelligence, the Isafp called a press conference where it admitted it had "no concrete evidence" against Babao. But they insisted that there were "circumstances" which tended to implicate Babao: his presence in court hearings, and that Santos, after posting bail, was picked up by an ABS-CBN van.

What the ABS-CBN investigators found was that Babao attended only one hearing of Santos, on habeas corpus and not a bail hearing yet, and that the lawyer representing Santos at that time was Homobono Adaza, not Nicomedes Martelino, the lawyer who, the military said, approached Babao during the bail hearing and afterwards "suddenly" announced that Santos could post bail. Both Babao and Martelino testified that they have not met each other personally.

"We find the evidence shows there is absolutely no truth to the charges against Babao: he neither posted nor guaranteed bail for Dawud Santos," the committee concludes. "In addition, we find it extremely alarming that Isafp ... could even say it had 'circumstantial evidence' when the facts it presented publicly were so blatantly wrong."

* * *

WHILE clearing Babao, the committee called attention to the "large role" played by Tiongco, who, as Babao recalled, had at first volunteered his help for Santos, helping to secure bail, and then turned around months later to accuse Babao of using his influence to help Santos.

Is Tiongco working by himself or is he working for someone else? Tiongco, if you will recall, surfaced recently as an "audio expert" paraded by Environment Secretary Mike Defensor to belie the authenticity of the "Hello Garci" tapes.

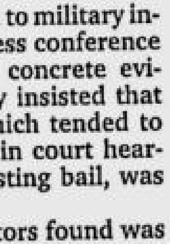
In conclusion, the ABS-CBN committee said: "In this highly charged political environment, this case is unique because the false charges were made by a sitting President, and that could send a chilling effect to all working journalists today.

"On the other hand, it also served as a catalyst for public discussion and debate on media ethics, something we've long needed in our industry. ABS-CBN hopes the discussions continue and vows to do its part in defining and maintaining those standards, working hand-in-hand with other media organizations.

"ABS-CBN values its reputation and that of its employees. That is why we embarked on this exercise of accountability and hope Isafp and Malacañang will do the same.

"Incidents like this only tarnish the reputations of all institutions involved and highlights the demand for greater accountability. It partly explains why our nation is undergoing a crisis of confidence and faith."

First ladies



LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

THERE IS A SMALL BUT INTERESTING LITTLE exhibit that opened recently in the National Historical Institute building on T.M. Kalaw Street in Manila. The exhibit is on the First Ladies of the Philippines.

Individually, these women, during their time, were referred to as the "power behind the throne." One cannot underestimate their quiet, almost invisible, role in shaping our nation's history. It is this idea that made the organizers entitle the show "HERstory," a word which some rabid feminists insist should replace the male concocted "History." There has been an unsuccessful move in historical circles to implement this or at least to change "history" to a more neutral or politically correct term.

At the outset, I have to state that my only regret is that the curators or the person who cooked up this exhibition stopped short of including the lone first gentleman in the program. The controversial husband of President Macapagal-Arroyo is doubly a first gentleman because Corazon Aquino was a widow when she became president and had no first gentleman. Surely, one of Mr. Arroyo's tuxedos would have complemented all the formal gowns now standing in the middle of the exhibition and made it look like an ongoing cocktail party.

Glass vitrines contain photographs of the various first ladies and some personal effects that bring us closer to these overlooked participants in our history, beginning with Hilaria del Rosario Aguinaldo (1877-1921), wife of the president of the First Philippine Republic. I have always known Mrs. Aguinaldo from a faded black and white photograph showing her in a *baro't saya* astride a horse. Mrs. Aguinaldo complemented Emilio Aguinaldo's military campaigns by caring for wounded soldiers and their families. She established the Asociacion de la Cruz Roja, the precursor of the present Philippine National Red Cross and for this she raised funds for medicine and other supplies.

Then we have Aurora Aragon Quezon (1888-1949), who complemented the administration of Commonwealth President Manuel Luis Quezon with social and civic work. She actively campaigned for women's suffrage. Mrs. Quezon also kept home for her family, especially during their exile in the United States during the war. She outlived her husband, who died in New York in 1944, and returned to the Philippines in 1946 to resume her socio-civic work, particularly with the Philippine Tuberculosis Society because this was the disease that felled her husband. It is ironic that she devoted her attention to the restive peasants in Central Luzon but was eventually killed in an ambush by Huks in 1949. Her remains were recently moved from Cementerio del Norte and now rest in the Quezon Memorial Shrine with those of her husband.

While Quezon established a government-in-exile in the United States during the war, he left Jose P. Laurel to mind the fort and fend for himself and the nation during the Japanese occupation when the latter served as president. It is thus rather unfair that history books and historians often refer to Laurel as a "puppet president." While the issue of collaboration still manages to elicit debate, one can only imagine how Paciencia Hidalgo Laurel (1889-1960) held out both as first lady and mother to the nation during the dark days of the war. Mrs. Laurel refused to live in Malacañang and opted for their family home in Paco, Manila. Like Mrs. Quezon, she involved herself in socio-civic and charitable activities. The best compliment paid her can be found in the dedication of her husband's book "Bread and Freedom," (1952) which states: "To my beloved and understanding wife, who shared uncomplainingly, all the hardships that are the lot of one who tries to serve the fatherland."

Esperanza Limjap Osmeña (1896-1978) married Sergio Osmeña, a widower with 10 children. She became first lady upon the death of Quezon, which made her husband the president of the Philippine government-in-exile. She was first lady for two years, and could have stayed longer if her husband had not lost to Manuel Roxas, whose first lady was Trinidad de Leon Roxas (1900-1995).

Mrs. Roxas was first lady at a time when the country had to rebuild itself and gather what was left after the destruction of the war. She got involved in various charitable organizations like the White Cross and the Girl Scouts of the Philippines and organized the annual Malacañang Christmas gift-giving that has become a tradition to this day.

Victoria Syquia Quirino (b. 1931) was actually a "first daughter," but since her father, President Elpidio Qurino, was a widower she took on the role of first lady. Following tradition, she also got involved in socio-civic activities and made history as the first daughter of a president to get married in Malacañang.

Luz Banzon-Magsaysay (1915-2004), wife of Ramon Magsaysay, kept house for the President who is credited with opening Malacañang to the people. She displayed a quiet dignity and courage in the face of a personal tragedy when her husband died in a plane crash in 1957.

Then we have Leonila Dimataga-Garcia (1906-1994), wife of President Carlos P. Garcia, followed by Evangelina Macaraeg-Macapagal (1915-1999), wife of Diosdado Macapagal of which we are reminded by her daughter Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

The rest of the first ladies are still alive and we wont comment on them yet.

* * *

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

Multilingual

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

IF YOU DRIVE PAST LA SALLE GREENHILLS, YOU'LL NOtice an announcement on a billboard about Chinese Mandarin language classes.

I doubt if La Salle did that to attract more Chinese-Filipino (Tsinoy) students. After all, only a few kilometers away is Xavier School, which has been offering Chinese classes for almost 50 years now.

La Salle's move is probably intended for non-ethnic Chinese-Filipinos, coming out of a recognition that some knowledge of Chinese can be an advantage for their graduates, and I don't mean just an ability to bargain in Chinese when you deal with a Tsinoy business establishment. Chinese opens the door to what's sometimes called Greater China, a bustling growth region which includes the People's Republic of China, the special administrative regions of Hong Kong and Macau as well as Taiwan and Singapore.

While our national government continues to flip-flop with its language policy—Filipino, English or Filipino and English—forward-looking Filipinos are going a step further and looking for schools that will give their children proficiency in English, Filipino and more. Some do this by sending their children to Chinese schools, which not only offer Chinese language classes but also have quite high standards for math and the sciences. The really rich ones look to local international schools, which offer foreign language options such as Spanish, French and German as early as the elementary grades.

Dutch pragmatism

We should learn from the Dutch, who offer a variety of languages to all their students, whether in private or public schools, in the elementary grades. The way it was explained to me by Dutch friends, this policy rose out of pragmatism. The Netherlands is a small country, with a population only slightly larger than that of Metro Manila. They're surrounded by powerful neighbors like Germany, so multilingualism became an essential part of their survival strategy to deal with their powerful neighbors for economic and political purposes.

Dutch multilingualism didn't mean abandoning their national language. Dutch continues to be the primary language in homes, schools and offices and there's massive translation of books from all kinds of languages into Dutch. In other words, the Dutch learn languages to explore the world, and also to bring the world's wonders back in to the Netherlands by translating great literature and practical books into Dutch.

Just to give you an idea of how extensive the Dutch's translation work is, they've even produced a bilingual edition (Dutch and English, from what I remember) of Rene Villanueva's "Kung Bakit Umuulan" (Why It Rains), a children's book based on a Panay folktale about a feminist goddess named Alunsina.

The Dutch figured it out ages ago: the debate shouldn't be about being monolingual or bilingual. In this day and age, multilingualism is the way to go.

Moreover, the Dutch don't aim for perfection with foreign languages. They continue to emphasize proficiency in the national language, while teaching students to pick up enough of a foreign language to be able to communicate. So when they speak English, it's still with a thick Dutch accent and still often using Dutch syntax and words. They don't apologize for that since their aim is to communicate, and they do that quite well.

In the Philippines, we still have pretensions about perfecting English, ending up incomprehensible because we try too hard to ape American "dick-shyon" (accent on shyon) and to use fancy but inappropriate terms.

Need

If we go multilingual, we need to do this based on need, which will vary depending on the niche you're aiming for. If you want to enter the foreign service, then you need English and French. For seafarers, English remains essential as they roam the world, working with different nationalities on board. It's also English that provides Filipino seafarers an edge over Koreans and Chinese, currently our leading competitors in the seafaring industry.

I sometimes worry about the choices made by young people, at least with the ones I'm seeing at the University of the Philippines. Japanese, for example, seems to be a more popular choice than Chinese, sometimes for banal reasons ("I like anime," one student told me). When you think about it, the chances of a Filipino using Japanese are not that great, given the difficulties of penetrating that job market. Wanting to learn Japanese to understand Japanese culture, beyond anime, is fine. But if we want to be practical, Chinese would go a longer way. Even Singaporeans have been intensifying language training for Mandarin Chinese, which is different from Hokkien, the language used by most Singaporeans.

With European languages, the impression I'm getting is that UP students are more interested in French and Italian than in Spanish. At least two of my students have told me they chose French and Italian because they're "sexier." If sexiness is the basis for choosing a foreign language, then go for Portuguese. That way, too, you get to communicate with more people since Portuguese has more speakers than French.

Linguistic capital

In terms of practical value, I'd still pitch for Spanish. We need Spanish to learn more about ourselves, given how our history and culture are so embedded in that language. While few Filipinos actually speak Spanish, the imprint is there in all our languages, affecting the way we think about the world.

I always tell my Latin American friends that we're actually part of their continent, except we ended up on the other side of the Pacific. We share so much with many Latin American countries because of our colonial experiences with Spain and the United States. In the 1970s, we again suffered together with Latin America from US-sponsored dictatorships. Today, our inability to speak Spanish means we lose out on many opportunities for common causes with Latin Americans around business, politics and culture.

Language is capital. It's just that we've tied ourselves too much to the US dollar, we may be losing out by thinking only of English, with narrow goals like getting a cut of the call center market.

We become more competitive if we diversify our "portfolio" of linguistic capital. Part of that diversification will come as we recognize how our fortunes lie closer to home, in working with neighboring countries, which means we should be getting more Filipinos to pick up Chinese or Bahasa Indonesia. I hope, too, that we go back to learning Spanish, not just so we can read Neruda in the original but because Spanish allows us to rediscover our past, even as we find ways to reconnect to the present, to our "neighbors" across the Pacific.

An example for people in gov't

AS AN ORDINARY CITIZEN OF this country, without any political connections, I must admit that to be given an audience by Manuel Morato, PCSO director, was such a humbling experience on my part. Everyone in his office was very courteous and very helpful. Tikya de la Torre went out of her way and assisted me in my inquiry. It made me wish that all government agencies under the Office of the President, being an extension of the most powerful office in the land, were that way.

While waiting for Morato who was in a board meeting last Oct. 19, I was in the company of our less fortunate brother and sister Filipinos, who had traveled from far away places to seek assistance from the PCSO. A man from Naga was beside me carrying a doctor's prescription with attached photo of his son who was afflicted with a tumor in his left eye. He was asking for medical assistance. His letter was handwritten and that was understandable, knowing that he had no typewriter or computer because his was a poor family. In his letter was a marginal note signed by Morato to who asked a department to give assistance to the poor fellow.

My reason for seeking an audience with Morato was not for medical assistance. I was there only to seek a reconsideration of my application to be an online lottery agent.

However, what can an ordinary citizen do? After listening to my oral arguments, so to speak, the good director courteously told me that he had no power to grant such authority as he was not the PCSO chair, just a director. Nevertheless, he endorsed my letter to Conrado Zabella, assistant general manager for online lottery. The fate of my application awaits final judgment by the latter.

In this age of incredible excesses and arrogance by some of President Macapagal-Arroyo's men, seeing public officials of Morato's kind with my own eyes made me feel there was still hope. Morato's concern for the poor and his giving time for ordinary citizens should be an example to those people who hold power in government.

—ROMULO O. PEÑA,
2381 R. Del Pan St.,
Sta. Ana, Manila

Looking ahead

Pro and con letters to the INQ7.net editor are increasingly projecting a horizon for the country farther than its present crisis:

VOICES ON INQ7.NET

THE VOTES FOR GMA THAT MAY HAVE been [obtained] through cheating are not significant [enough to] warrant deprivation of the votes of the majority. The margin may have been slim but it is still a majority.—**Jesus Sombilon, 5010 South Hummer Lane, Edinburg, Texas**

* * *

I believe GMA cheated in the last election. What are we teaching the younger generation, that cheating is normal and in fact is rewarded by becoming president of the country? What will become of our young people when they hold sensitive positions in the country?—**Ronald Ivan Bellen, 117 Macabagdal St., GP Caloocan City.**

* * *

PGMA is not the only leader in this country. There are other leaders who have been doing well in their respective offices. Why do we have to spend all our positive energies, our precious time, money and work for her stupid and irresponsible actions? Let her own conscience disturb and judge her about what she has done to this country and, above all, to the poor.—**Edmond Sombilon, New Jersey, USA**

* * *

Fact being stranger than fiction, the Philippines indulges to a fault its many dictators, thieves, rapists and killers who rob people of their dignity and livelihood, punishing instead the petty wrongdoers who are products of raging poverty. Worse, it rewards those who are loyal to those who perpetuate the culture of corruption, and silences—no, kills—crusaders of truth and justice. In a twisted spin, those who question the status quo are branded destabilizers, anti-patriotic, or even losers.

And only the taxman rules.

Gloria has studied economics, judged and condemned the Philippines to a doom of her and her shadowy minions' choosing. No matter how many more lies and I-told-you-so's the pretender to the throne [unleashes on] our poor perverted country, the sad reality is that in our silent inaction, the machinations of greed and terror will continue to cut through our daily (in)capacity to feed our family.

And who says we need a declared martial rule? Just look at [these]:

1. Hello Garci, *adios democracia*—Not only does the controversial former election commissioner remain missing, so is the pursuit of truth and legitimacy. Meanwhile, EO 464 proscribes government officials, civilian or military, from appearing in Congress without presidential approval.

2. Calibrated freedom—The ban on protest rallies continues, sanctioned by the bashing of heads of protesters.

3. Muzzling the press—Far more insidious for being unseen is the promulgation of EO 454 in August, [putting] the National Telecommunications Commission under "the administrative supervision and control" of the DOTC... Leandro Mendoza, a GMA diehard, can decree which TV or radio stations get to broadcast or not. Indeed, he can decree how we use our cell phones. Controlling Internet content in the guise of protecting the young from pornography is on the horizon as well.

4. Charter change and the Unholy Trinity of JDV, FVR and GMA—They rob us of our right to vote and seal the fate of our country to perpetuate their greed for power and riches, sweeping out our much-abused democracy and installing demi-kings and hoax queens of their choosing.—**Dennis Torrecampo, dentorrecampo@yahoo.com**

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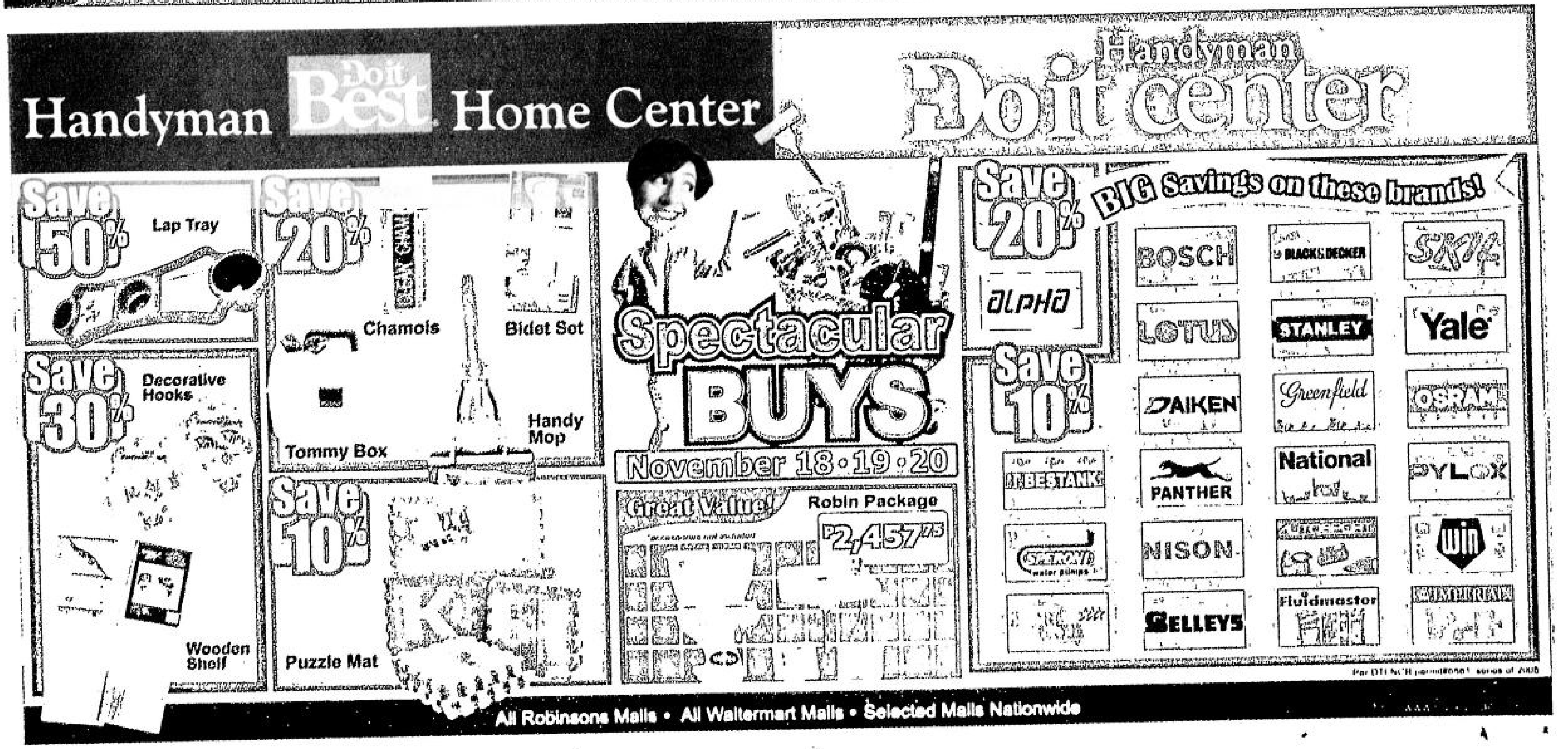

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DENR exec won't shut down Lafayette

By Blanche Rivera

LEGAZPI CITY—A REGIONAL environment official yesterday continued to defend a mining firm that had leaked toxic waste into the waters of Rapu-rapu, Albay, saying its operations won't be shut because it committed only one violation—failure to contain excess effluents that led to the breaching of its tailings pond.

Reynulfo Juan, Mines and Geosciences Bureau regional director, said while his office welcomed calls for the closure of Lafayette Philippines Inc.'s operations in Rapu-rapu, he saw no reason to shut them down.

He said the MGB will base its decision on its findings, not on the protests and growing clamor to shut down Lafayette.

But he told reporters at the DENR that his office found the rehabilitation plan submitted by Lafayette to be inadequate.

"We find it inadequate. We have a lot of comments on their plan," he said.

The MGB is also seeking a review of the entire tailings disposal system of Lafayette to check if it was faithful to the DENR plan.

Juan said the study submitted by Lafayette was "theoretically okay" but it was possible the actual set-up in the plant was different.

The storm water run-off drainage, for example, passed through the tailings pond, which should not be the case because this would naturally cause the pond to overflow during heavy rains, the MGB said.

The EMB has also suspended the water discharge permit it issued to Lafayette, disabling the company from using its tailings ponds.

No cyanide

Lafayette was also prohibited from buying cyanide pending the rehabilitation process.

These prohibitions could delay Lafayette's scheduled shift to base metals production from gold production because it could not use its tailings ponds or cyanide during the rehabilitation process.

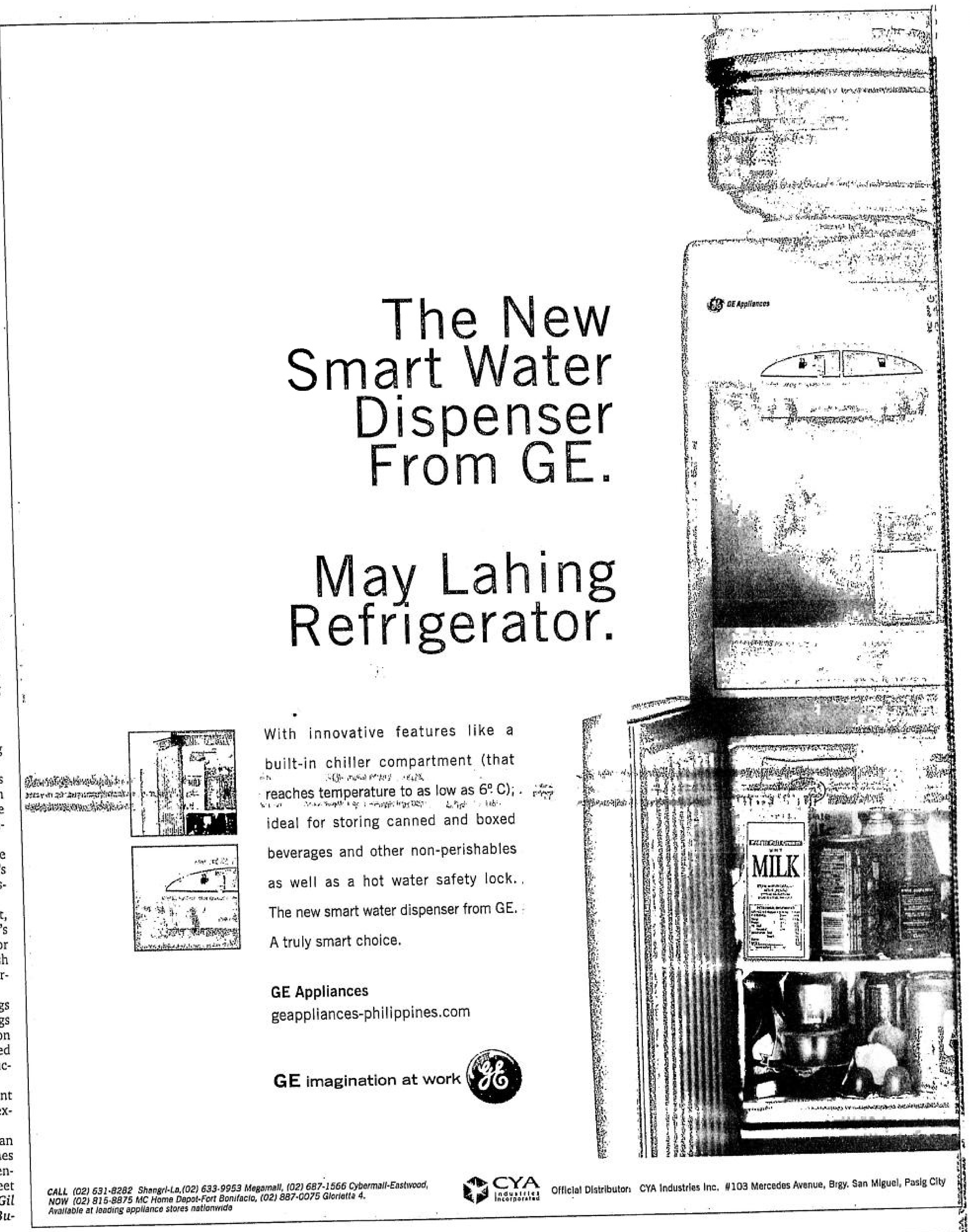
The long-term rehabilitation could take around three months, Juan said. Lafayette's gold processing has been indefinitely suspended by the MGB.

The Rapu-Rapu Polymetallic Project, dubbed as the flagship project of the country's revived mining industry, was responsible for two mine spills in the last month, causing fish kills and cyanide contamination of two nearby creeks, Hollowstone and Ungay.

A defective valve channeled mine tailings to the events pond instead of the tailings pond, causing the events pond to overflow on Oct. 11. Three weeks later, heavy rains caused the tailings pond to overflow on Oct. 31, according to official MGB reports.

"They said they did not foresee the amount of rainwater, but we don't find that as an excuse," Juan said.

The MGB has directed Lafayette to do an immediate physical cleanup of the shorelines and detoxify the environmental ponds to ensure that the effluent released would meet DENR standards. *With a report from Gil Francis Arevalo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*



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Mayor convicted of graft

PAGADIAN CITY—A Zamboanga del Sur town mayor could serve up to 30 years in prison while three other town officials face lesser prison terms after the Sandiganbayan found them guilty of graft.

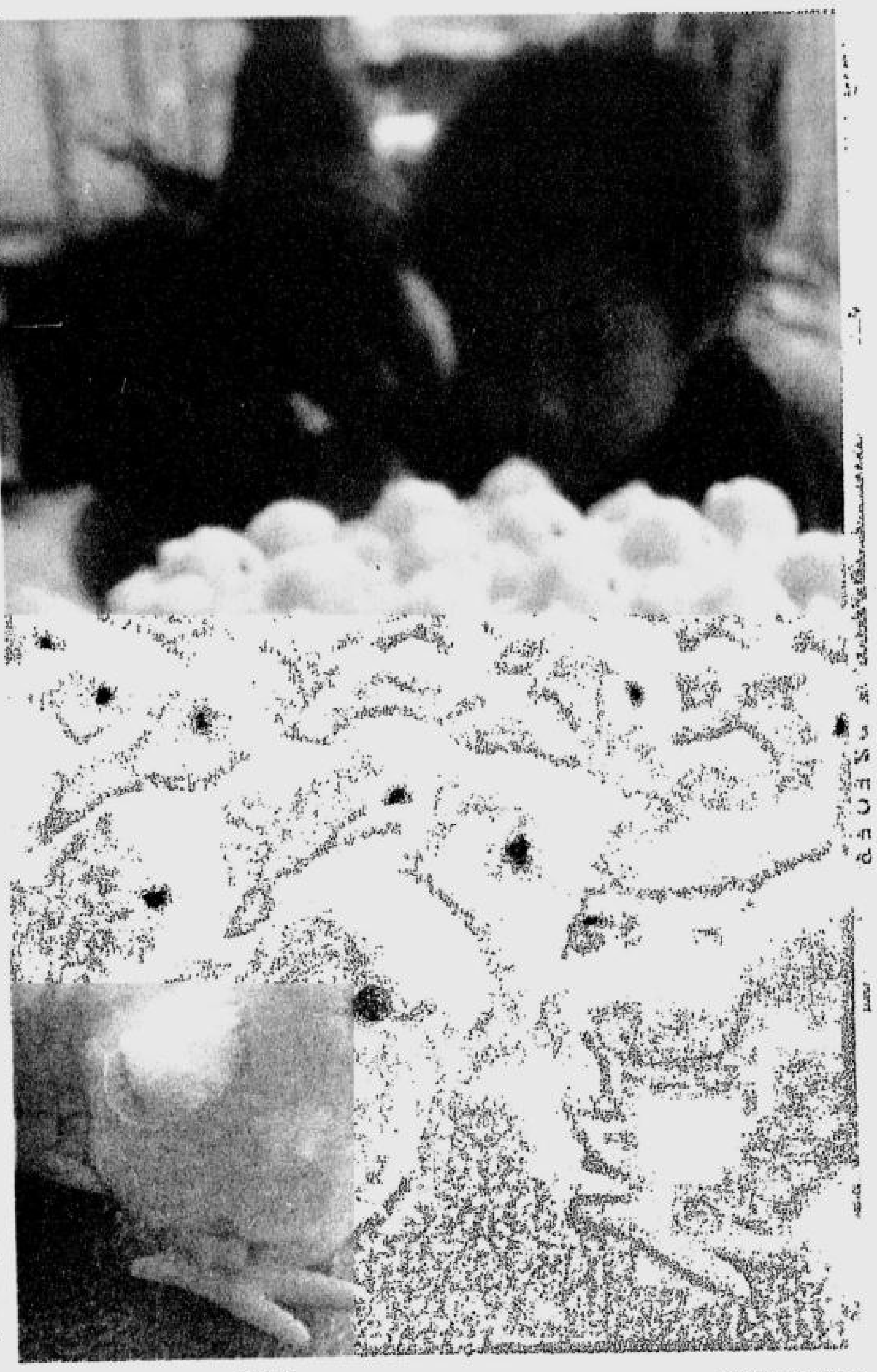
A copy of the graft court's July 20 decision was obtained by the INQUIRER here on Monday.

The case against Lapuyan Mayor Cesar Sulong, Municipal Planning and Development Coordinator (MPDC) Arno Madrigal, Municipal Treasurer Yolanda Galeza and Operation Officer Victor Apostol stemmed was on the alleged overpayment of labor costs and the purchase of construction materials for a river control project in the town in 1990.

It was prompted by a letter-complaint in 1991 sent to then President Corazon Aquino by a Cecal Oterol, a combination of the first names of the complainants.

Ms Aquino, acting on the letter-complaint, instructed the Commission on Audit in Western Mindanao to conduct a comprehensive audit in Lapuyan.

The special audit team was headed by Clydelene Quiñones. *Michael Sarcauga, PDI Mindanao Bureau*



PETS

LYN RILLON/PDI PHOTO

Street children peer at a display of toy chicks that look real and are being sold in downtown Cotabato City. The toys are sold for P25 each and were imported from China.

Cebu taxi drivers seek ₱15 add-on meter rate

CEBU CITY—TAXI OPERATORS in Metro Cebu have asked the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) to implement an add-on meter rate of P15 to offset the increasing prices of fuel.

Richard Cabucos, president of the Metro Cebu Taxi Operators Association (MCTOA), on Wednesday filed the petition for a fare adjustment at the LTFRB office in Central Visayas.

He said it was time that the LTFRB adjusted taxi rates because the last increase drivers and operators had was on Sept. 30, 2004 when the flag down rate went up to P30 for the first 500 meters and P2.50 for every succeeding 300 meters and P2.50 per two minutes waiting time.

At that time, he said the price of unleaded gasoline was pegged at P25.31 per liter but now, it went up to P38.05, or an increase of about 50.33 percent.

He said the LTFRB adjusted fare for buses and jeepneys last May 9 due to the rising costs of fuel.

Cabucos, however, said his group decided to ask for an add-on meter rate, instead of an adjustment on the flag down rate, because they did not want to burden the riding public.

"In order not to aggravate the situation, the petitioner suggests a P15 add-on meter rate instead of adjusting the fare rates granted last year. If the taxi meter shows P100, the fare to be charged is P115," Cabucos said in his petition.

He, however, clarified that the increase was not for the operators but for the drivers because operators have no plans to increase the rentals for the use of their units.

The group just wanted to ensure that drivers had enough money to bring home to their families, he added.

The MCTOA is composed of 65 operators who own a total of 3,100 taxicabs operating in Metro Cebu.

Douglas Sanson, LTFRB chief transportation development officer, said the LTFRB will set a public hearing next week before it makes a recommendation to the LTFRB central office.

But he said that if the petition would be granted, there would be no need to recalibrate taxi meters because the taxi operators only demanded a P15-add-on meter rate. *Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau*

MILF denies recruiting children for combat duty

COTABATO CITY—THE MORO Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) took exception to a report by the United Nations International Labor Organization (UN-ILO) that claimed rebel groups in Central Mindanao have been recruiting minors.

The UN-ILO said the recruitment of minors into the armed conflicts is the worst form of child labor.

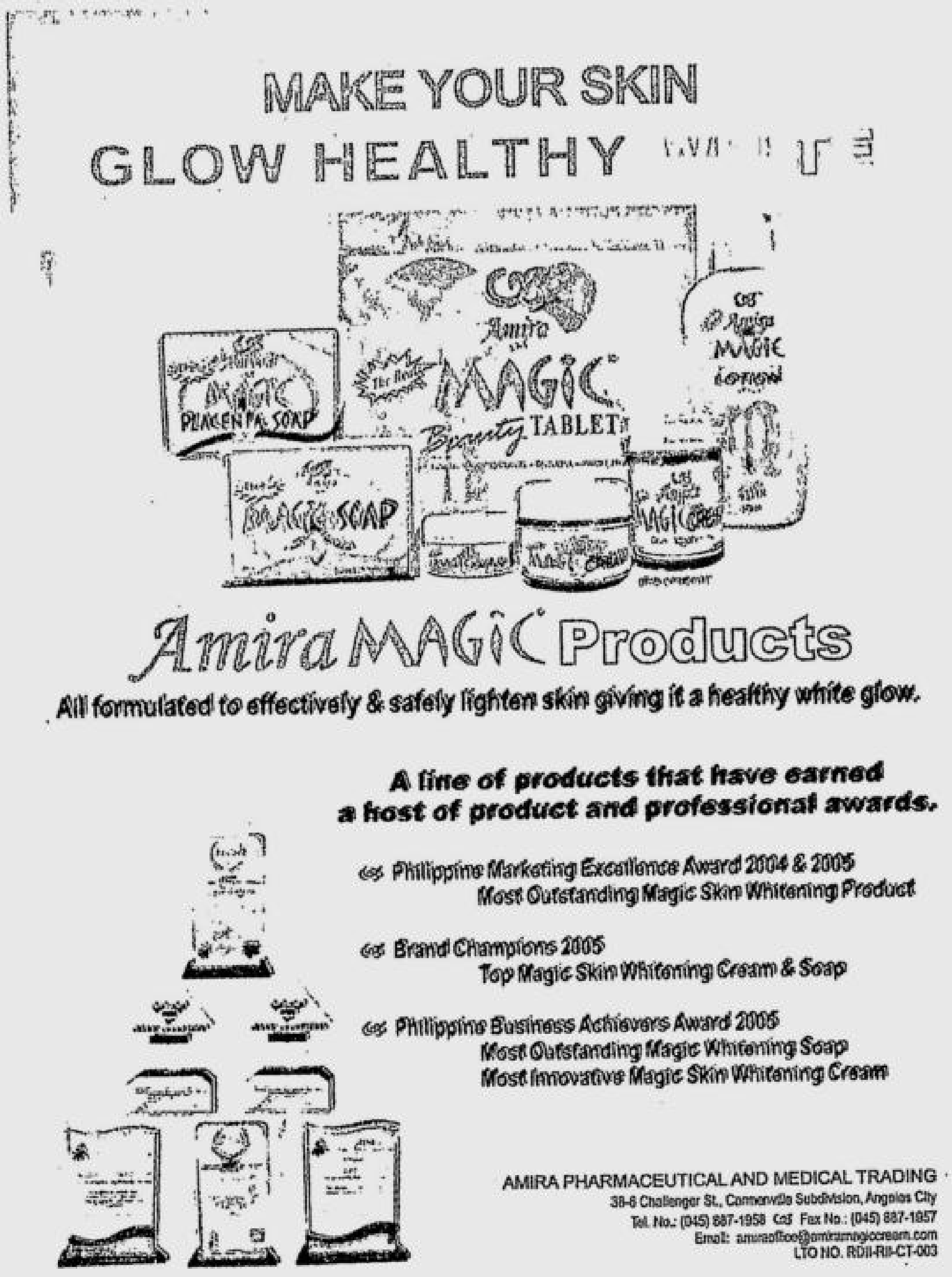
"We do not recruit children into our military nor deliberately involve them in combat. The recruitment of children is not and has never been a policy of the front," Muhammad Ameen, head of the MILF's central committee secretariat, said.

Earlier, Rohayda Pahm-Gampon, an official of the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) in Central Mindanao and project coordinator of a program on children affected by armed conflict, said they noted an "alarming rate of involvement of youth or children in (armed) conflict."

Gampon said because of this, war-torn villages are the most dangerous workplaces for children.

Ameen said what the UN body should do is to look into the root of the conflict, which inevitably drags children to war.

"War is forced on our people," he said. *Jeoffrey Maitem, PDI Mindanao Bureau*



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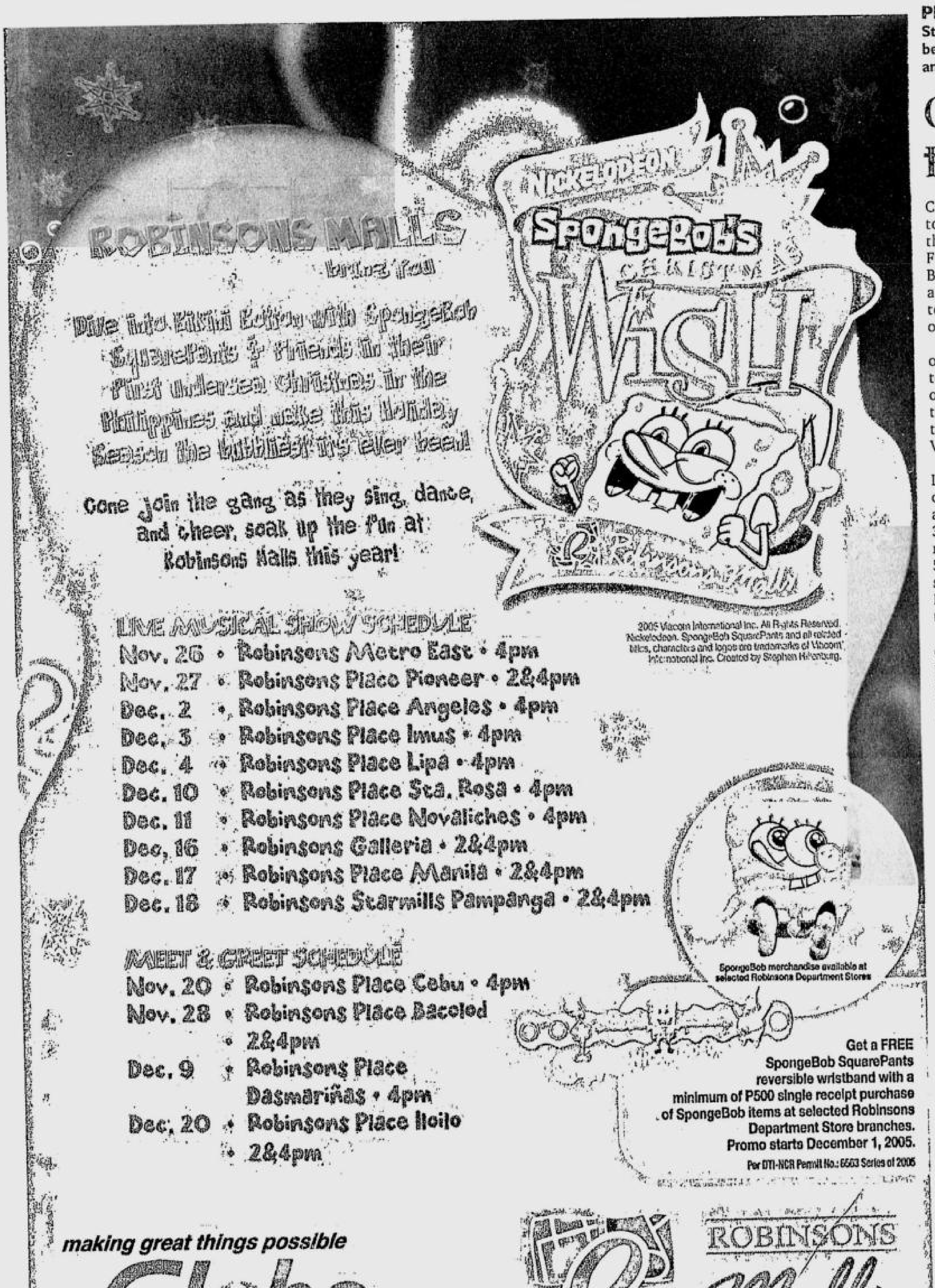

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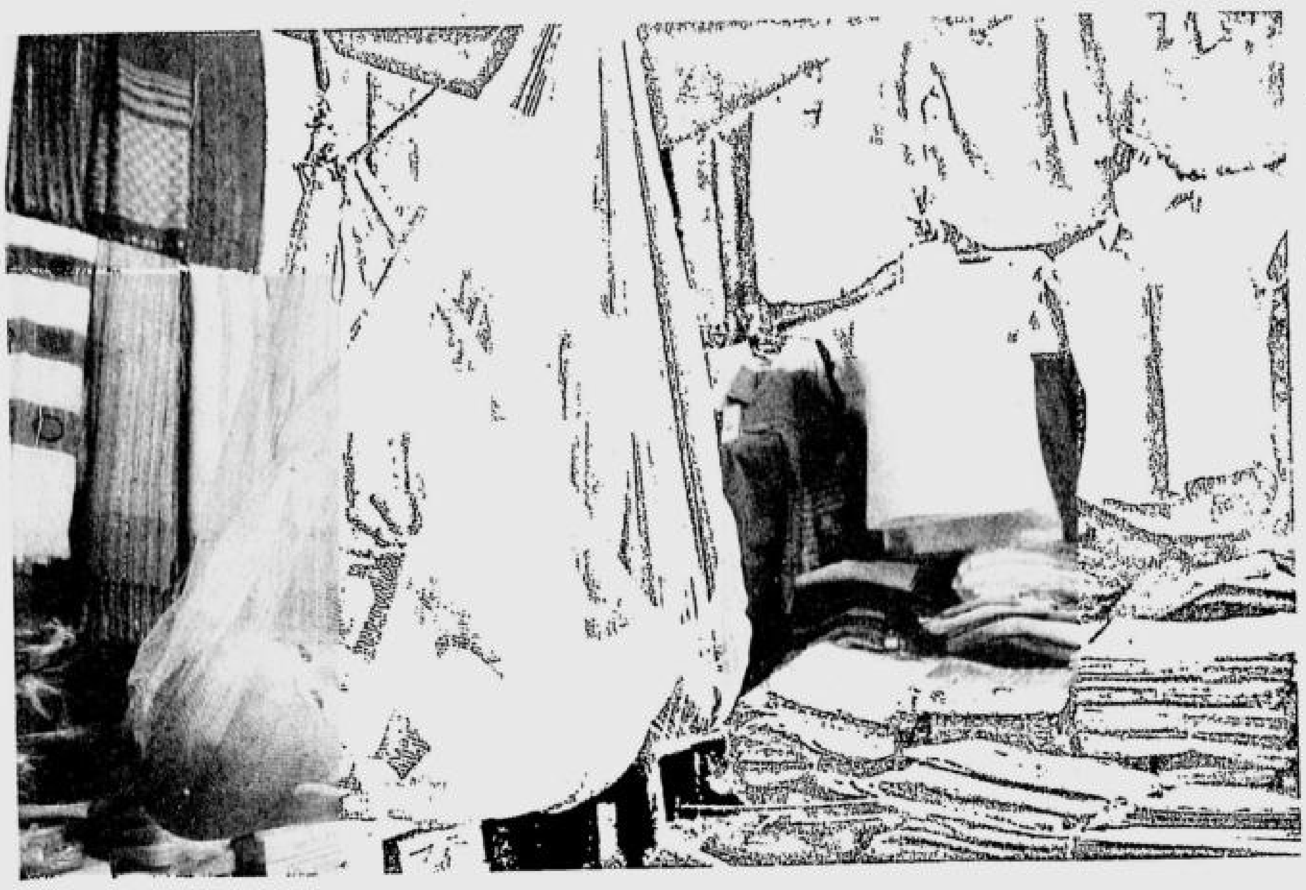

UKAY-UKAY LYN RILLON/PDI PHOTO

Nine-month-old Hamim Yusof looks out from his mesh crib at the Barter Trade area in Cotabato City while his parents attended to customers nearby. Most of the stalls in this center are owned by and operated by Muslim families.

ARMM will never be gun-free, says gov

COTABATO CITY—THE AUTONOMOUS REGION in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), which is well-known for being a poor region ravaged by a long-running armed conflict, could never be gun-free, the region's chief executive, Gov. Zaldy Ampatuan, said.

"It would be impossible to impose a total gun ban because gun possession among Moro natives has become part of the culture," Ampatuan, a scion of one of the most powerful clans in the ARMM, said.

Loose firearms in the region, which the military estimated at about 30,000, are being blamed for most incidents of violence in the ARMM.

Ampatuan, 38, said that even before a Moro child is born, a firearm has already been reserved for him.

Traditionally, a kris or any bladed weapon was the Moro's precious possession of old, believed to symbolize authority and respect.

"Today, this has been replaced by a gun," said ARMM police chief Senior Supt. Akmad Mamalinta.

Mamalinta said the presence of so many unlicensed firearms and cases of feud in the region have been the major sources of headache for authorities.

Despite Ampatuan's statement that it would be hard to control the proliferation of guns in the ARMM, Mamalinta said the police have waged a region-wide drive against unlicensed firearms.

Mamalinta said gun holders could avoid prosecution by having their weapons licensed and learn to become responsible citizens of the community by joining an accredited gun club or organization of gun wielders.

"Through this, gun owners are taught about respecting the rights of other people, proper gun handling and firing," he said.

Charlie Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau

3 dead, 22 hurt in NLEx mishap

MARILAO, BULACAN—THREE PERSONS WERE killed while 22 others were hurt when a jeepney hit a stalled six-wheel truck along the northbound lane of the North Luzon Expressway in Barangay Patubig here on Thursday morning.

Personnel from the St. Paul Hospital in Bocaue town, where some of the victims were taken, identified the fatalities as Arnold Estacio, 34, a truck helper; and Elizabeth de Leon and Elenita Cudia, who were passengers of the jeepney.

Supt. Pepito Pacada, Marilao police chief, said the jeepney driver tried to overtake another vehicle but he failed to notice that a bus was blocking his way.

Pacada said this forced the driver to swerve and change lanes but his jeepney hit Estacio, who was standing near their stalled Isuzu Elf truck on the NLEx's shoulder. After hitting Estacio, the jeepney smashed into the truck.

The injured victims were taken to the St. Paul Hospital in Bocaue, St. Michael Hospital in this town, Montefalco Hospital in Meycauayan town and MCU Hospital in Caloocan City. *Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

ROUNDUP

Docs' wages pushed

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NAGA CITY—The Department of Health is asking Congress for an additional P5.2 billion in its 2006 budget, on top of this year's P9.5-billion budget, to raise the salaries of government doctors, Secretary Francisco Duque III said here on Tuesday. Duque said the additional amount would also allow the agency to honor its commitment to give government doctors bonuses and other incentives. He said the planned increase in compensation was one of the solutions seen in stopping the exodus of government doctors.

Juan Escandor Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Cop killed in gunfight

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—A policeman was killed while a bystander was wounded in a gunfight with three suspected robbers in Barangay Nueva, San Pedro, Laguna on Monday. Calabarzon police director Chief Supt. Jesus Verzosa said PO3 Necias Malagum, assigned to the Mobile Patrol Unit of the San Pedro Police Office, died from a bullet wound in the chest while Nicanor Ganado, a resident of Carmona, Cavite, was wounded by a stray bullet in the body. Verzosa said ambulant vendors in Barangay Nueva sought the help of Malagum after they witnessed three armed men snatch the bag of businessman Angelito Tongco, 51, at around 1:30 p.m. Another policeman, SPO2 Miguel Mendoza, 51, of the Biñan police, was shot dead by two unidentified armed men in Biñan just before dawn Monday.

Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

'Hot' logs seized

LUCENA CITY—Police and Department of Environment and Natural Resources personnel from northern Quezon recovered about 173 cubic meters of the hard wood lauan on three occasions. A report said 100 pieces of abandoned logs with a volume of about 118 cu m were found in Barangay Pamplona on Sunday. The day before, another stack of lauan lumber was found floating in a river near the same village. On Nov. 4, police and DENR employees foiled the transport of undocumented lumber in Real, Quezon. Another report said authorities intercepted a van loaded with lauan in Barangay Llavac. Police arrested the van's driver.

Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

NPA encounter

LEGAZPI CITY—Government troops seized firearms, a laptop and antigovernment materials during an encounter with 20 New People's Army rebels in Barangay Batbat, Guinobatan, Albay. Military reports said there were no casualties from both sides. Col. Arsenio Arugay, commanding officer of the 901st IB, said the encounter in Sitio Mawaswas lasted 40 minutes and was prompted by reports from farmers about the presence of armed men in the area.

Gina Rodriguez, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

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58th Induction and
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Messages

Office of the President
Malacanang Palace

My warmest felicitations to the officers and members of the Manila Jaycees, Inc. as you hold your 58th Induction and Turnover Ceremonies

I hope that your new set of officers will ably steer your organization so that you can achieve your noble objectives. Your efforts to build a pool of responsible leaders committed to community change through world peace and understanding are indeed laudable. I am particularly heartened to know that over the years, you have worked hard to harness your leadership skills and pursued numerous worthy undertakings for the benefit of our less fortunate countrymen

In these trying times, let us set aside politics and focus on rebuilding our nation. Join me in growing the economy and strengthening democracy in our country. Only then can we beat the odds and secure a brighter and more progressive future for all Filipinos.

Mabuhay kayong lahat!

Gloria Arroyo
GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President, Republic of the Philippines

Office of the
Vice President

My warmest greetings to the Junior Chamber International (JCI) Philippines-Manila on the celebration of its 58th Induction and Turnover Ceremonies on November 18, 2005.

JCI has always aimed to arm the youth with leadership skills, social responsibility and fellowship to create positive change. A well-equipped youth is the crucial key to building better communities

Manila Jaycees, JCI's local affiliate and the first in Asia, has been unwavering in its commitment to promote the spirit of jayceeism in the country. It has been a potent force in paving the way for the realization of our people's aspiration for a better life.

Rest assured that you, the new leaders of Manila Jaycees, have my total support, as we are united in our commitment to promote public welfare and the country's economic development.

MABUHAY KAYONG LAHAT!

NOLI "KABAYAN" L. DE CASTRO
Vice President, Republic of the Philippines

JCI
Junior Chamber International
Worldwide Federation of Young Leaders and Entrepreneurs

It's a great pleasure and an honor for me to wish you a successful 58th Turnover and Induction Ceremony on November 18, 2005. This is an important occasion as it marks a beginning of a new year that I expect will be challenging, but extremely fruitful and enjoyable for you.

The world is very different now than when Raul Garcia Vidal was first elected JCI President in 1944. Yet, the same revolutionary beliefs upon which our forebears established this organization are still at issue around the globe today.

I encourage you to remember that we are the heirs of that first revolution and to continue working tirelessly to assure the success of our fundamental principles and the foundation on which our organization was born.

Please keep in mind that the excellent value and quality of your products and services as well as the empathy of your relationships will drive Membership loyalty in the long term. Endeavor to better understand the needs of your Members to drive continuous innovation. Work with a passion for action and quality.

Bring enjoyment to life, while showing respect to individuals, society and the environment. Strive to be the best you can be. Lead by example and challenge and support the professional growth of your Members. You will thus ensure the success of JCI Philippines and contribute to JCI's success worldwide in the years ahead.

Kevin Cullinane
KEVIN CULLINANE
2005 JCI President

The Junior Chamber International (JCI) Philippines–Manila is the first and premier leadership development organization in the Philippines and in Asia. Since its humble beginnings on 1947, it has remained committed to the pursuit of public good through pioneering community development programs, while at the same time, through the education of promising young upstarts for excellent leadership opportunities. Its success inspired even more ambitious undertakings, generating more enthusiasm and drawing more members. JCI Manila was formed primarily to fill the need of properly channeling the energies and idealism of the Filipino youth into an organization that undertakes activities and projects, which would eventually rebound to the benefit of the community as a whole. Now on its 58th year, JCI Manila continues to demonstrate its brand of concerned leadership that the organization has always been known for. Under the direction of the 2005-2006 Board of Directors, JCI Manila promises to become a shining testimony of its claim of being the best Jaycee organization, not only in the country, but also in the world, as it has gloriously proven in the past 57 years.

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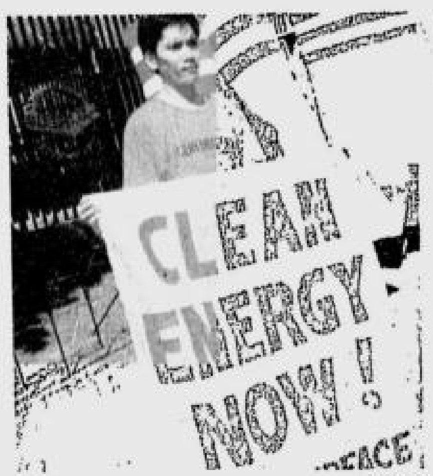
Cheaper Quezon power pushed

LUCENA CITY—A QUEZON OFFICIAL has proposed that the two coal-fired powered plants operating in Pagbilao and Mauban towns supply the electric requirements of the province at a much cheaper price.

Under the proposed "Quezon Discounted Power Rates Ordinance" of Board Member Rommel Edaño, the Mirant Pagbilao Corp. and the Quezon Power Ltd. will be obliged to directly sell their excess power supply to Quezon-based electric utility firms and public service cooperatives at a discounted price.

Edaño, chair of the special committee on power rates, said Republic Act No. 7638 mandates the Department of Energy to devise ways and means of giving direct benefits to the local governments hosting energy resources or generating facility stations.

He said Republic Act No. 9136 or the Electric Power Industry Reform Act of 2001, has declared that it is the policy of the state to ensure affordable electricity and that power generation companies are under obligation to continuously provide benefits to the host areas.



PDI FILE

ELECTRICITY comes at a price far more expensive than just pesos and cents, according to members of Greenpeace in a protest rally in Manila recently.

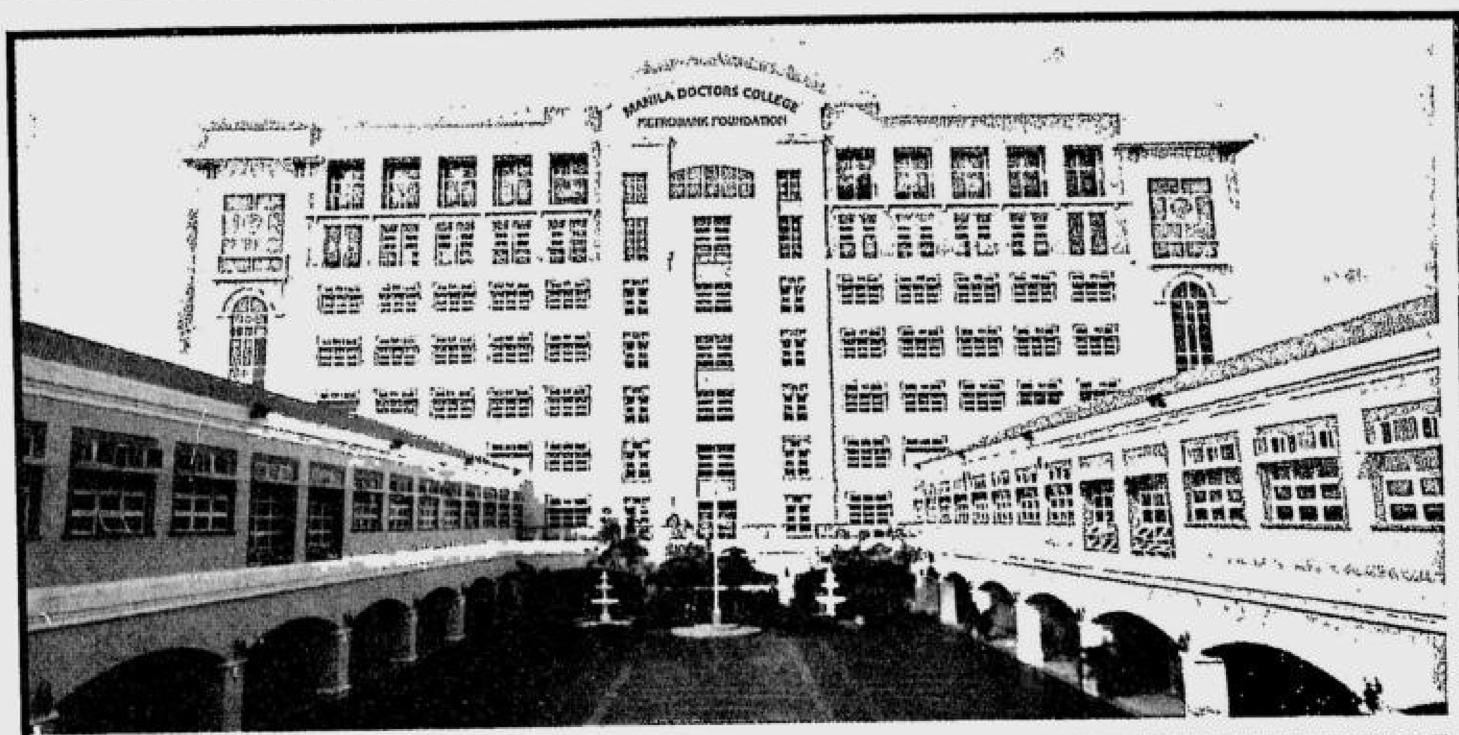
Mirant Pagbilao generates a total of 735 MW. It sells 700 MW to the National Power Corp., leaving 36 MW as excess capacity.

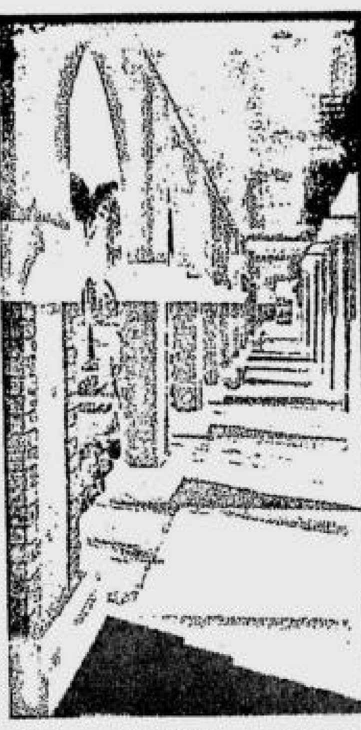
The QPL plant in Mauban town produces a total of 500 MW. It's under obligation to sell 460 MW to the Manila Electric Co.

"The IPPs shall effect the prioritization in the direct sale of their excess power supply by giving preferential treatment to the host province," Edaño said, adding that, in turn, electric utility firms and cooperatives should apply the discounted amount to their consumers.

Currently, Quezon Electric Cooperatives I and II distribute electricity to a total of 31 municipalities, while Meralco provides power supplies to six towns and Lucena City.

Edaño said his ordinance is the response of the provincial government to find ways to provide Quezon residents with lower electric costs for hosting the two power plants. *Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*





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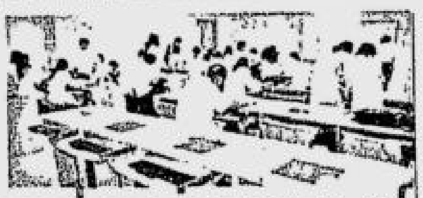

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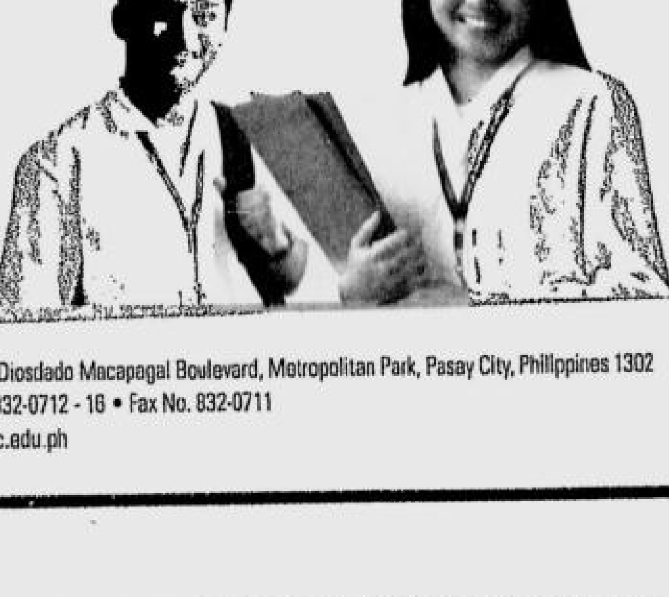

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Finger-pointing begins in Subic rape case

From page A1

"leaving but General Calimlim said he refused," Gonzalez said.

Gonzalez said he told Calimlim: "Hold them until an inquest can be done."

But the prosecutor failed to show up.

Gonzalez said he then called up Olongapo City Prosecutor Prudencio Jalandoni but he and all the other prosecutors were in court and unable to proceed to the Subic pier, where the accused Americans were set to leave after participating in counterterrorism exercises in the Philippines.

He said he left instructions for Jalandoni to immediately proceed to the SBMA to conduct an inquest—the determination of probable cause immediately after the commission of a crime.

Things happened fast

Unfortunately, Gonzalez said the US Marines were no longer at the SBMA when the prosecutor finally arrived so he was not able to conduct the inquest.

Asked why the Filipino officials yielded custody, Gonzalez said the US military attaché invoked Article 6 of the VFA, which states that the United States should have immediate custody of its personnel.

Gonzalez said this provision made US custody mandatory except when the case was extraordinary or of particular importance to the Philippines, in which case the government could request custody.

Asked if this was done, Gonzalez said: "General Calimlim should explain that."

In a statement issued in Olongapo, Calimlim said the prosecutor that Gonzalez had promised to dispatch failed to show up before Col. Terry Cook, the US Embassy military attaché, took the servicemen from the aircraft carrier USS Essex, which then departed.

"Things happened fast," said Calimlim. He added that he did not negotiate with the Americans. He said it was SBMA Administrator Armand Areza and Chair Feliciano G. Salonga who did.

DFA slow to move

After the two-hour hearing, Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago expressed dismay that DFA officials were "slow in acting" and appeared not to have sufficient knowledge of the VFA to assert Philippine jurisdiction over the Marines.

"It was too timid. I get the impression that the DFA was stepping gingerly, it was acting as if it was stepping on eggshells," Santiago told reporters.

She said the DFA only had to enforce the letter of the VFA.

"I'm very sad that we take this attitude. It makes us sound like we were still a mini-colony of the US," she said.

"We're afraid to stand up for our rights. We're always worried that we might incur their displeasure and this encourages them to be bellicose or to be nonchalant about the provisions of a written treaty," said Santiago, who cochairs the panel with Rep. Antonio Cuenco of Cebu.

During the hearing, Santiago asked if a formal request was made by the United States for custody as required in the VFA.

Seguis said there appeared to have been none, but added "we reminded them of their seeming oversight."

'National security matter'

At the outset, Sequis said he would not answer the questions of the senators and congressmen unless they held an executive or closed-door session.

"Why? The people are entitled to know, what's so secret about this? It involves the dignity of a Filipino," Cuenco said.

DFA invokes EO 464

Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile added: "What is so sensitive about this issue? Is this a matter of peace and war? Was it upon the request of the US?"

Seguis said he was just following Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo's instructions.

When Enrile insisted, Seguis invoked Executive Order No. 464, Ms Arroyo's order prohibiting officials from testifying at congressional hearings without her authority, saying the matter was a national security issue.

"Oh, come on. I've handled national security for 17 years. What is national security in a rape case?" Enrile said.

Seguis said the DFA had an agreement with the US Embassy not to disclose their discussions.

On Santiago's questioning, Gonzalez said the case could be considered extraordinary, and thus the country could insist on custody because it involved rape which is a heinous non-bailable crime.

Enrile asked Seguis if the Philippines invoked this provision on extraordinary cases to get custody of the Marines.

Seguis hesitated and Enrile demanded: "Yes or no?"

Formal notification

It was then that Seguis admitted the DFA had sent a "formal notification" to the US Embassy. Enrile asked him to submit the notification to the committee.

When Rep. Rozzano Rufino Biazon asked Seguis when he filed the notification, Seguis said: "Yesterday (Wednesday) afternoon, after consultation with the DOJ."

"What took us too long," Biazon asked.

Rep. Erico Fabian asked what the government could do if the United States shipped the Marines out to Okinawa.

Gonzalez said the Philippines could not do anything except to invoke the extradition treaty if the Marines absconded.

DFA intellectual fantasies

Santiago vented her ire on VFA Commission Executive Director Zosimo Paredes for his previous statement that nothing in the VFA required Philippine custody of the Marines.

She said the provisions on extraordinary cases and on having a place of detention in the country acceptable to the Americans implied that the Philippines could take physical custody of the personnel.

"You have to be familiar with the rules of international law. We cannot just express our own intellectual fantasies in a hearing like this," Santiago said.

"I think he's suffering from—the kindest thing I can use—doctrinal confusion," Santiago told reporters.

After Santiago left, Paredes complained: "In one sentence, I was treated rudely."

Santiago said the hearing revealed that both the Philippines and the US sides had been found wanting on the implementation of the VFA.

'Oversexed, over here'

She said she would come out with a committee report asking the joint houses of Congress to review the VFA on such issues as the exemption of US personnel from visa and passport requirements, automatic custody by the US of erring personnel, absence of a definition of what constitutes extraordinary cases, and the need for the United States to clean up its former bases in the country.

"The problem with the Americans is they are overpaid, oversexed and over here," Santiago said.

Responding to a question on the rape victim, Social Welfare Secretary Lualhati Pablo said she was a business administration graduate helping her mother manage a restaurant in Zamboanga, a typical Filipino woman and "very ordinary looking." The victim has requested that she not be named publicly.

GMA wary of FVR, JDV, says document

From page A1

ghost document concocted by losers."

"What will they think of next?" Bunye said in a terse statement issued before he left with Ms Arroyo's party for South Korea to attend the 13th Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation conference.

'Calibrated' leadership

In the portion "Political Alignments: Emerging Trends," the document said: "[There] has been no mass exodus so far within the ranks of pro-administration congressmen as shown by the voting in Congress' last plenary session."

Beside it was the annotation: "FVR/JDV formula is to cut short PGMA term—JDV leadership in the House must be calibrated for possible new Speaker."

Listed in the annotation as supposed possible replacements for De Venecia were Pichay, House Majority Leader Prospero Nograles, former Speaker Noli Fuentebella and "Cojuangco boy (?)."

The challenge to De Venecia's leadership in the House built up slowly during the month as congressmen discussed the reorganization that would strip proimpeachment House officials and committee chairs of their respective posts.

Upon the resumption of Congress sessions on Nov. 7, Pichay said some lawmakers wanted reforms in the House. He made no bones about challenging De Venecia for the speakership again if certain changes weren't made soon enough.

"The tapping of non-allies [such as Fuentebella and a Cojuangco congressman] is a ploy which, if accepted, will dissipate the credibility of the opposition," Tatad said.

FVR 'moves'

While De Venecia was dealing with the challenge to his leadership, Ramos was fending off allegations that he was plannning a coup against the Arroyo administration.

A supposed US Embassy document had reported that Ramos planned a coup as early as February, or months before the "Hello Garci" scandal raised doubts over the legitimacy of the Arroyo presidency.

A note at the end of the document, "check on FVR moves," was among the apparent measures intended for Ms Arroyo's political survival.

"[Ms Arroyo's] unveiling of her real intentions with regard to Ramos and De Venecia could poison the water that has helped sustain her disputed presidency until now," Tatad said.

Many observers saw Ramos and De Venecia as having helped turn the tide for Ms Arroyo in July, when they stood by her despite quit calls from such influential ex-allies as former President Corazon Aquino and Senate President Franklin Drilon.

But the two men, proponents of a shift to a parliamentary-federal form of government, had also called for immediate Charter changes and for Ms Arroyo to cut her term short.

Notes on other contenders

From the notes on the document that Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez described on Wednesday as a "secret paper," Ms Arroyo seemed wary of another ally, Vice President Noli de Castro.

The paper said opposition members had been "posing resistance" to De Castro because there would be "little political gain for them" in a scenario wherein the latter would succeed Ms Arroyo.

The note read: "October indicator shows increasing acceptance for De Castro as transition [leader] for snap election."

Regarding Susan Roces, widow of the late actor and opposition standard-bearer Fernando Poe Jr., Ms Arroyo's supposed comment was: "Roces factor remains a myth."

"[Big] business and [the] middle class do not take her seriously," the note also read.

The annotation on ousted President Joseph Estrada, who was described in the paper as having offered to lead a transitional revolutionary council, was: "Nil possibility."

Sen. Panfilo Lacson was described in the notes as someone who would only be kept afloat by "money and force," and former Executive Secretary Renato de Villa as someone whose role as an "alternative leader" had "not yet firm[ed] up."

Church, business division

The document said the Church and the business sector were divided on whether to call for Ms Arroyo's resignation.

This supposedly elicited the following note:

"Good propa[ganda] and strategy ... of PGMA groups [are] continuously dividing the Church-business ... society.

"PGMA to continue to create more DIVISION."

The paper said that while a faction of the Makati Business Club and the Financial Executives Institute of the Philippines had called for Ms Arroyo's resignation, other influential business groups had taken a contrary view.

Ms Arroyo's supposed reaction was: "Business maintains conditional support for PGMA." The idea of a principled stance was downplayed, with a note saying that the support was "profit-motivated."

Real peso value'

Despite Ms Arroyo's pronouncements of an economic takeoff with the upbeat performance of the peso after the implementation of the expanded value-added tax, the notes indicated that the opposite was imminent.

"[The] economy still retains its resiliency despite current uncertainties, but the prospect of a long drawn-out political crisis could eventually take a serious toll on economic recovery efforts," the document said.

The corresponding annotation was: "Takeoff not in sight—Gov't must start 'painting' a new landscape ..."

And another: "[The real] value of the peso will dive after Christmas when OFW remittance will contract."

"Keep EVAT hanging," read another note, to which were attached: "to appease public" and "to meet creditors' requirement."

"It is clear from these notes that Ms Arroyo is fully aware of the fix she is in. She may still want to exit gracefully, but she does not quite know how. It is a classic case of riding the back of the tiger and wanting to dismount without ending up inside," Tatad said. *With a report from Christine O. Avendaño*

Doy: 'The man who gave way,' says his widow Celia

From page A1

It is a portrait of a man's quest for the highest office in the land, inspired by a father who was Japan's surrogate president in the Philippines during World War II. Today would have been his 77th birthday.

Juxtaposed in the current political environment, the Laurel narrative is a study in self-abnegation and betrayal, of unanswered prayers and unrealized dreams.

A celebrated stage actress, painter and writer, Celia says her husband had coaxed her into getting into the project.

"You will write my odyssey," he had whispered to her from his sickbed. "No," she had protested. "You will get well ... and we will write it together."

With a faint smile, she recalls, he moved his head from side to side, saying with a hint of finality, "You will write it!"

Laurel died on Jan. 27, 2004, of cancer.

Main preoccupation

Soon after, Celia buckled down to work. The product is the coffee table book published in May—337 glossy pages filled with photographs chronicling the life of one of the major Philippine figures during the dark days of the martial law regime.

"My main preoccupation now is to remind people of my husband," says Celia in an interview in the study of the Shaw Boulevard home her husband built from his earnings in the early days of his law practice.

He is being forgotten

"All his life was devoted to the country," says the 77-year-old widow.

"It's a pity his efforts are being forgotten. Many people now do not know Doy Laurel. He's the one that gave way," she says, seated at a table filled with her husband's papers. Canvas oil portraits, some unfinished on easels, are scattered about in the room.

Laurel's political journey started when he launched the Citizen's Legal Aid Society of the Philippines in 1966. He had taken up a pro bono case brought against a policeman by a poor woman whose husband had been peppered with bullets and dumped in a trash can.

He won the widely publicized trial that made him a national icon.

Since then, he became obsessed with defending indigent litigants who could not afford the high cost of justice.

He was well prepared for it. He had a brilliant law practice after working on his master's and later a doctorate at Yale—until he decided he would be a "defender of the defenseless." Saying he wanted to bring his crusade to Congress, he successfully ran for the Senate in 1967.

The declaration of martial law in 1972 found him locked out of the Senate. As with others who had thought they would give the President the benefit of the doubt, he kept at the sidelines until 1978, when his politically influential clan broke away from Marcos.

Laurel became one of Marcos' passionate foes, organizing the disparate and fractured political parties into a solid front—the United Democratic Opposition, or Unido.

He traveled—often alone—across the land to build Unido, sensing that sooner or later, Marcos would submit himself to an election.

The snap election

It was a prescient move.

In November 1985, Marcos, weary of massive protests sparked by the assassination of opposition leader Benigno S. Aquino Jr. on his arrival from self-exile two years earlier, called for snap elections.

As Corazon Aquino vacillated, Unido moved to proclaim Laurel its candidate against Marcos. Aquino subsequently declared her candidacy.

Under pressure to field a single presidential candidate against Marcos, Laurel, after lengthy discussions with Aquino, decided to stand down. He agreed to be the vice presidential candidate of the widow of his slain boyhood friend.

Aquino ran under Unido, which had helped organize the massive crowds that joined the funeral of the assassinated opposition leader, the "yellow brigades" and the confetti revolt in Makati that rocked the foundations of the Marcos regime.

Like father

Stepping aside for Aquino was a supreme sacrifice for Laurel. He thought about his father from whom he drew inspiration. He recalled that 32 years earlier, Jose P. Laurel had given way to Ramon Magsaysay, who went on to become President.

"I believe that personal and group interest must yield to national interest," he says in his diary.

In March 1986, one month after the installation of Aquino as President in the wake of the Edsa 1 uprising and Marcos' escape to Hawaii as mobs howled at the Palace gates, the young government was plunged into a debate.

This centered on whether it should keep Marcos' 1973 Constitution while dismantling the infrastructure of the authoritarian regime.

"I felt it was ironic that after succeeding in abolishing a dictatorship, we should again resort to dictatorial power by abrogating the constitution and governing by decree," Laurel writes in his diary.

The betrayal

At a special Cabinet committee meeting, it was decided that the Batasan—the Marcos rubber-stamp parliament—would be retained but Aquino would be given emergency powers. There would be a timetable for transition, the formal inauguration of the new government, the writing of a new Constitution and the holding of elections.

It was, Laurel says, a "fasttrack plan" to achieve constitutional normalcy and political stability at the earliest possible time.

"Another plan was hatched and suddenly executed. It was a species of political treachery which was never honestly explained," he says.

Laurel was unaware of it at the time.

In accordance with the decisions in the committee, Laurel accepted the formal turnover of the office of the Prime Minister from Cesar Virata on March 25, 1986.

Less than four hours later Aquino read on national radio and television a proclamation abolishing the 1973 Constitution, the Batasan and all national and local positions, including Laurel's job as prime minister.

Utmost restraint

"I could not believe what I heard. Cory had, unilaterally, decided to set up a revolutionary government," he says.

"I was concurrently Vice President of the Republic, Prime Minister and Foreign Affairs Minister at the time. Any decision involving no less than the abolition of the fundamental law should have been discussed with me.

"Yet, I was not consulted. I was naturally aggrieved ... But it was too late, the deed was done. I felt I had given up so much and worked so hard to bring the new government to power. I wanted it to succeed so I held my peace and exercised utmost restraint," Laurel says in his diary.

Reduced to an outsider

Increasingly, Laurel was eased out of the Palace inner circle—"reduced to an outsider whose access to the presidency was being substantially sabotaged by a cordon-sanitaire."

The wounded Laurel kept the hurt to himself, as he had done before when things did not work out his way, says Celia. There were other setbacks to follow.

In 1992, he would run for President again and lose in a field of seven aspirants, with the eventual winner, Fidel V. Ramos, getting only 23 percent of the votes cast. It was a plurality that, while not a majority, was still reflective of the people's will in a democracy.

"What God chooses is always better than what I choose," he would say later.

Laurel would be named chair of the National Centennial Commission that would oversee celebrations in 1998 marking the 100th anniversary of the declaration of Philippine independence from more than three centuries of Spanish colonial rule. Graft charges were later brought against him for alleged overspending. This was a man with an unblemished public record.

While fighting for his innocence in court, Laurel never lost sight of his lifelong mission—to see how he could help move the country forward. He worked at the same time on a book that would distill his thoughts on where the country had gone wrong and what it must do.

What next?

It is a takeoff from Rizal's work and is titled "After 100 Years—What Next?" Essentially, Laurel makes a case for the failures of the presidential system and the need to adopt a parliamentary type of government.

Even as his health was failing him, Laurel completed the book that his wife is now preparing to publish.

"Doy was such a strong person physically," says Celia in the interview. She agonized as she saw how "little by little his muscles would disappear."

She remembers her husband's last words to their son Cocoy, a popular stage actor and singer:

"Now I realize why we are here. We are not here for fame, for fortune, even for political power. I was there. We are here so we can help those who cannot help themselves."

'Johnny Midnight' shot in Las Piñas City office

By Jocelyn R. Uy

A RADIO BROADCASTER WAS ATtacked by a lone gunman in his Las Piñas City office yesterday morning, the latest in a series of attacks on journalists in the country.

John Xeres Burgos Joseph, known in the early 1980s as Johnny Midnight, had just arrived in his office at around 10:30 a.m. at the UCRI Townhouses along the Alabang-Zapote Road corner Casimiro Street when Ranilo Rose barged in and fired his .38 caliber revolver at Joseph's driver, city police chief Supt. Josephus Angan told the INQUIRER.

Rose then turned on Joseph. The 65-year-old broadcaster, who is also known as a healer, was shot in the left hip "The driver, Alexander Madrideo, was able to escape and only sustained a wound in his right hand, said Angan.

Thinking that he had killed the broadcaster, Rose immediately left and boarded a bus bound for Alabang, Muntinlupa City.

The local police and its Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT), however, was able to intercept the bus.

JOSEPH

"Had it not been for Madrideo, who immediately alerted the traffic enforcer near the crime scene, the suspect could have escaped," Angan said.

Madrideo, it turned out, immediately reported the incident to a traffic enforcer detailed at the intersection of Alabang-Zapote Road and Casimiro Street.

"The traffic enforcer then alerted the police through the radio," he said.

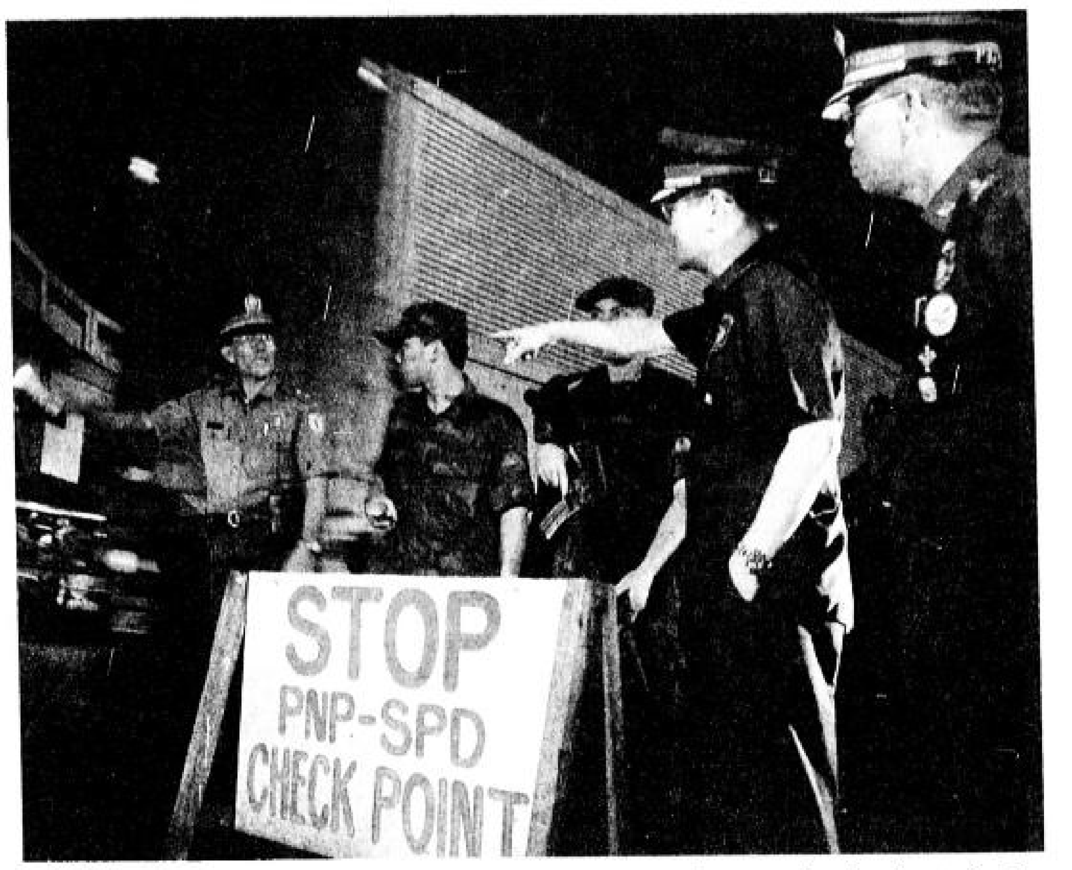
Joseph was rushed to the Perpetual Help Medical Center, and later transferred to the Asian Hospital and Medical Center in Muntinlupa City where he was reported in stable condition.

Rose told police that a personal grudge had pushed him to shoot the broadcaster. He added that he had asked Joseph to "heal" him, but something "weird" happened to him instead. The suspect told police that Joseph performed voodoo rites on him, Angan said.

Joseph gained popularity some 20 years ago for his promotion of pyramid power and a ritual he called "toning" on an overnight radio program, earning him the tag "Johnny Midnight." He had claimed that drinking "toning water" was good for one's health.

The broadcaster still maintains a daily radio show.

Six journalists have been killed in the country this year; 13 were killed in 2004. The Committee to Protect Journalists had said the country was the world's most dangerous place for journalists. *With a report from AP*



POLICEMEN from the Southern Police District man newly set up checkpoints to look out for car thieves and car hijackers, and have involved communities in their campaign. EDWIN BACASMAS

Car thieves are now more technology savvy

By Edson Tandoc Jr. and Tarra Quismundo

BUYING EXPENSIVE ALARM SYSTEMS OR patronizing pay parking lots may no longer do the trick, and could only give car owners a false sense of security according to anti-car theft operatives.

The reason: car thieves are now updated with the latest technology and can easily switch off alarms or dismantle security gadgets, SPO1 Edilberto Sanchez of the Pasig City Police Anti-Carnapping Unit said.

In his two years with the unit, Sanchez has handled cases where car thieves managed to drive away in cars kept in pay parking lots without showing parking tickets.

"They would tell parking attendants they lost their parking tickets and would just agree to pay fines," Sanchez said.

He said the best defense is still never to leave cars unattended, if possible. The common policy is for parking attendants to demand the original documents of the vehicles from the drivers in the case of lost tickets..

Owners should also choose pay parking services with efficient ticketing systems and guard visibility. Police said owners should also avoid parking their cars outside their houses or on the streets. "Most of the cases I have handled were cars stolen while parked," Sanchez said.

Beware of poseurs

He said car traders should also be careful with car thieves posing as buyers, and they should not allow a prospective buyer to test drive the vehicles alone.

SPO1 Gerardo Torres also warned that thieves also had their eyes on motorcycles, which are easier to take away. "There are groups who just load their target motorcycles onto a van," he said.

This procedure saves thieves the bother of having to restart the engine or dismantle the locks that could possibly attract attention.

He also advised owners to be cautious in hiring drivers. In some of the cases he handled, the drivers turned out to be in cahoots with car thieves, he added.

In Makati City, meanwhile, Richard Huang, 56, lost his blue Mitsubishi Pajero (XGU-374) parked in front of his house in Barangay Poblacion, just a few blocks away from the Makati Police District headquarters.

Just the other day, five armed men forcibly took a newly bought Toyota Hi-Lux from businessmen Fideliz Elumba Jr. who was also robbed of cash and other valuables.

"We already have in place seminars and an information drive in our barangays and villages teaching residents how to protect their cars, especially those who do not have garages," said MPD acting chief Supt. Efren Ysulat.

Night patrol

Apart from mobile patrols, the city's police have also been getting help from force multipliers, including barangay watchmen who conduct regular night patrols, particularly in residential areas. Ysulat said the MPD would also suggest to residents of its villages and barangays to put restriction beams at late night hours until dawn to act as gantries at street entries during the late night hours until dawn, blocking off vehicle access and exit while the neighborhood sleeps, he said.

In a related development, the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) is looking into the possible involvement of a Chinese-Filipino businessman in a notorious Pasig City-based car theft syndicate. NBI National Capital Region (NCR) Office executive officer Rosauro Bautista yesterday said they had recovered a stolen Honda CRV in front of suspect Andy Cu-Unjieng's home inside the Wilshire Building, Annapolis St., San Juan.

"We will definitely file car theft charges against Cu-Unjieng because the stolen vehicle was found in his possession," Bautista told reporters. He added that they are checking the suspect's possible links with the syndicate recently implicated in various car theft and carjacking incidents in the metropolis. *With Margaux C. Ortiz*

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3 die in jeepney, truck smashup at NLEx

By Nancy C. Carvajal

THREE PERSONS WERE KILLED and several others were wounded in an early morning vehicular accident at the North Luzon Expressway yesterday.

Traffic Control Supervisor Dong Sapiera identified one of the casualties as Arnold Estaquio, driver of a six wheel truck that was parked in the third lane of the highway along Km. 23 because its tires had blown up.

Sapiera said the truck driver and Elenita Pudia, 17, who was on board a passenger jeepney that smashed into the stalled truck, were killed instantly.

Another passenger, Elizabeth de Leon, 34, was declared dead on arrival at the St. Paul's Hospital in Bocaue, Bulacan. An unidentified female passenger, who was in critical condition, was brought to the St. Lukes hospital in Quezon City.

Among the reported 23 passengers, only 11 who were brought to other hospitals for treatment were tracked down by investigators.

"We are still tracing the whereabouts of the other victims because some bystanders brought them to other hospitals," Sapiera said.

The accident was reported by a motorist at exactly 7:02 a.m., according to the traffic control supervisor.

"Our CCTV had monitored the truck in the middle of the road, but everything happened so fast," he explained.

The driver apparently had to change tires in the middle of the highway because it was difficult to move the vehicle to the shoulder lane, Sapiera said.

Initial investigation revealed that the passenger jeepney coming from Meycauayan and bound for Marilao suddenly swerved to the right and did not immediately notice the stalled truck. "It was too late for the jeepney driver to move back to his lane after he overtook a bus using the right lane," Sapiera added.

14 nabbed with explosives cache in Navotas

By Margaux C. Ortiz, Nancy C. Carvajal

THE NATIONAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGAtion (NBI) yesterday arrested 14 suspected members of a syndicate allegedly involved in the manufacture of illegal explosives in a Navotas slum area.

NBI Anti Organized Crime Division (AOCD) chief Oscar Embido said his men also seized at least 10 kilos of suspected ammonium nitrate, a major ingredient in bomb-making normally used as a soil nutrient and mango flower inducer. The NBI also confiscated other raw materials including potassium nitrate, sulfur and blasting caps.

The suspects were identified as Rogelio Guiwan, Christopher Abasola, Allan Galit, Roberto Abad, Alfredo Chachero, Ronaldo Ligutan, Michael Verzosa, Marlon Verzosa, Fernando Penaranda, Ronald Nuevo, Ariel Lebusta, Randy Abanes, Anthony Obeja and Pastora Verzosa. Pablo Obeja, the owner of the house in Sipac where the raid was conducted, managed to escape.

Embido said they received reports about a group openly selling explosives to fishermen based in Parañaque, Cavite and Bataan.

According to barangay Sipac Chair Brainy Linang, the suspects are not natives of Navotas but fishermen who had been living along the town's shoreline for some time now. He added it was common knowledge in the area that the suspects were into illegal fishing, and that they had been previously charged with possession of explosive materials.

Manila, Makati ready for SEAG

By Tarra V. Quismundo and Tina G. Santos

A DAY THAT STARTED LIKE ANY other was suddenly marred by bloodshed on a usually quiet street in Makati City, when an explosion rocked a three-star hotel, injuring three men.

Makati City police quickly cordoned off the crime scene and closed to traffic streets surrounding the blast area, while the hotel evacuated its guests to safety.

It was the first few minutes of an explosion simulation exercise that Makati City's protective services staged yesterday, as a test of security preparedness for the Southeast Asian Games (SEAG).

Meanwhile, Muslim communities in Manila will be augmenting the efforts of city policemen in the task of providing order and security to participants of the coming event.

In a meeting with the officials of the Office on Muslim Affairs (OMA) and tribal leaders the other day, Manila Police District Director Chief Supt. Pedro Bulaong agreed with the proposal of the groups to maximize the part of the Muslim communities in promoting peace and unity during the sports event which will begin on Nov. 27.

METROBRIEFS

Not a park tenant

THE HOUSE of the Arroceros Forest Park caretaker was considered an illegal structure inside the property, according to Division of City Schools superintendent Ma. Luisa Quinones as she explained the demolition of Jenlyn Rosamiran's shanty by City Hall workers on Wednesday. "Construction of the teachers' building is going on, so the property has to be cleared of other structures. It's as simple as that," Quinones told INQUIRER. The school official added that the city school board does not allow anybody to stay or live inside the 2.1-hectare property.

WAAAH! SQUATTER DAW AKO!

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Rosamiran had been hired by Winner Foundation, the park's caretaker, to take care of the greenery and keep the place clean for the last five years. Rosamiran said the demolition team had torn down her house without showing her any eviction notice or court order.

Tina G. Santos

Book Week activities

TO MARK the 71st anniversary of National Book Week, the Philippine Librarians Association Inc., in cooperation with the National Library has organized week-long activities from Nov.24-30 with the theme, "Kultura ng Pagbabasa'y Palaganapin, Aklat at Aklatan Ating Pagyamanin." NBW overall cochair Lourdes V. Soriano said among the activities scheduled by the NBW committee are a funwalk around Rizal Park, and essay writing and story telling contests. For particulars, call Soriano at 049 8081350, Lolita C. Atienza at 8316688, 8611756 or Nona Yauder at 5250356.

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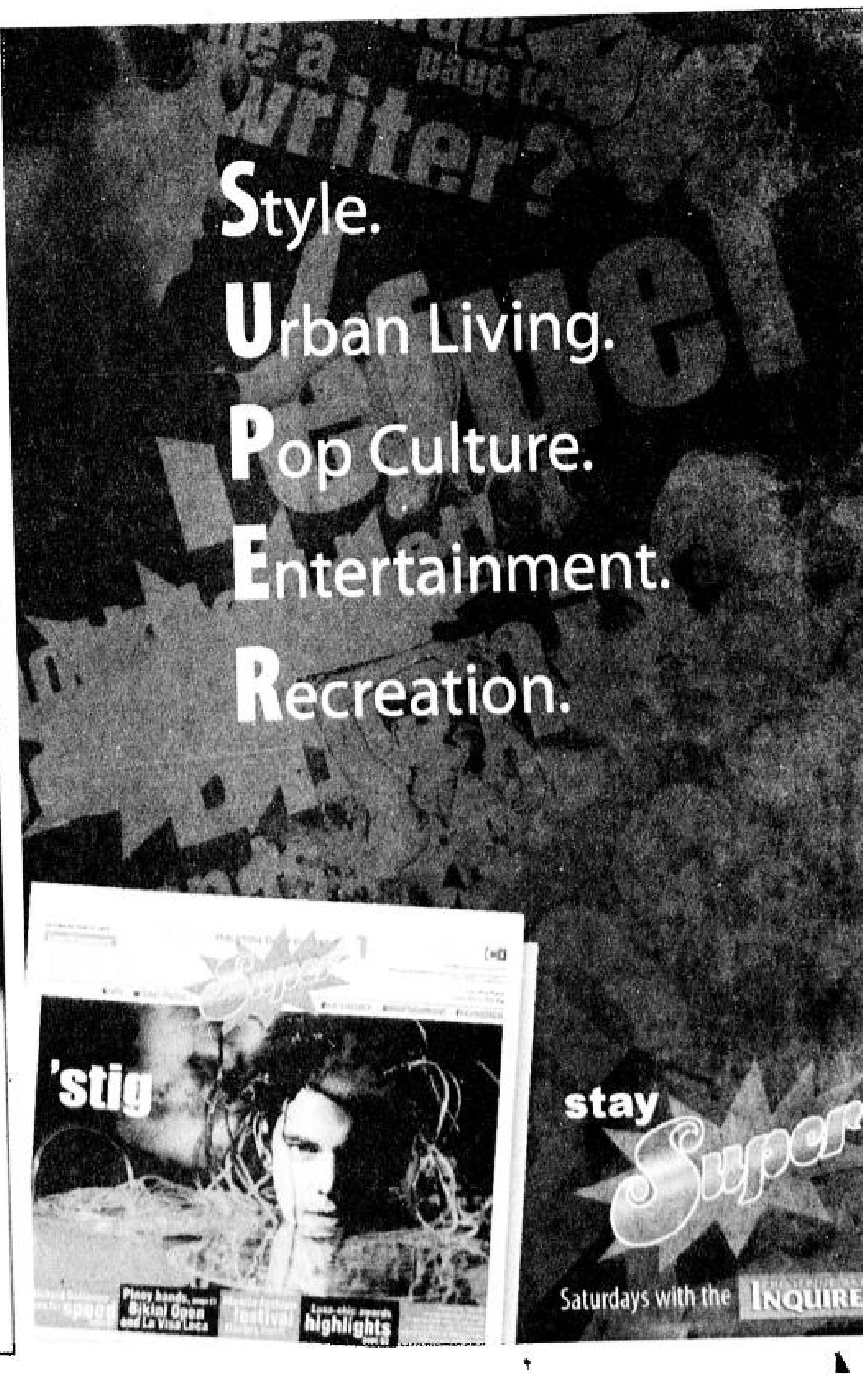

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Alumno ends RP gold drought in Indoor Games

ALUMNO:

By Jasmine W. Payo

PHUKET, THAILAND—HE CAME AND COMPETED with little fanfare.

But Billy Alumno became the toast of the Philippine delegation when he topped the Wai Khru event in muay thai to win the country's first gold in the 1st Asian Indoor Games on Wednesday night at the Sapanhin Sports Complex here.

Alumno, who outshone rivals from six countries, and teammate Ruben Sumido also captured two bronze medals for the Philippines via the luck of the draw in their respective categories in the Muay event.

Both lost their matches after earlier securing bronze medals by earning a bye to the semifinals.

The country's medal hopes were initially pinned on dancesport, but the Filipino bets didn't come close to winning a medal, along with women's futsal and sports climbing in extreme sports.

"When we saw the medal standings, I told Sumido that we have to provide a medal for the Philippines," said Alumno. "But I wasn't too confident because this is more prestigious than the SEA Games. Kazakhtan and Uzbekistan are here, and they're the powerhouse of muay thai."

Save for two missteps, Alumno delivered a fluid performance for a score of 86.8 points in the Wai Khru event.

The 28-year-old Alumno finished seven points ahead of Iraq's Mohammad Amran, who settled for silver after earning 79.8 points. Jordan's Ali Ali took the bronze with 66 points.

Also known as muay thai's pre-fight ritual, Wai Khru requires athletes to perform a series of

ALUMNO/ A31

Court orders POC to reinstate BAP

Decision offers little hope for SEA Games basketball

By Musong R. Castillo

THE BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION OF THE Philippines yesterday won a court battle against the Philippine Olympic Committee, but the decision may have come too late in the day for basketball to be included in the 23rd Southeast Asian Games.

Judge Manuel M. Barrios of Branch 54 of the NCR Regional Trial Court on Wednesday "commanded" the POC to immediately readmit the BAP into the local Olympic body and pave the way for the holding of the basketball tourney in the SEAG.

But BAP's court victory can be appealed before a higher court, according to former Philippine Basketball Association counsel Butch Cleofe.

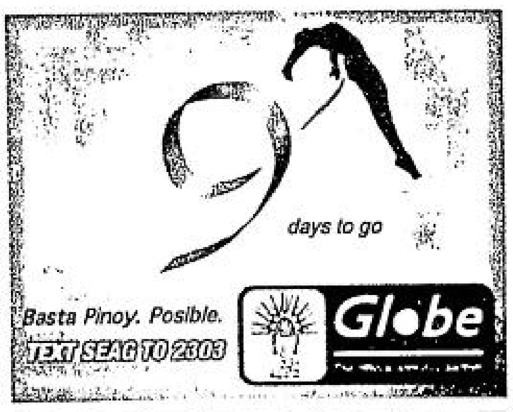
With only eight days to go before the biennial meet kicks off, no amount of legal maneuvering, observers say, can restore basketball in the SEAG calendar of events.

"It is not final and executory," Cleofe told the INQUIRER when consulted on the court decision. "The POC can easily take the matter to a higher court and, considering the time element, that decision may have come a little too late."

Cleofe added that "the POC can go up to the appellate court and allege that the court (NCR RTC) gravely abused its discretion in granting the injunction and that it has no legal basis."

The POC had earlier expelled the BAP through an overwhelming vote by the national sports association. But the Fiba (international basket-

COURT/A26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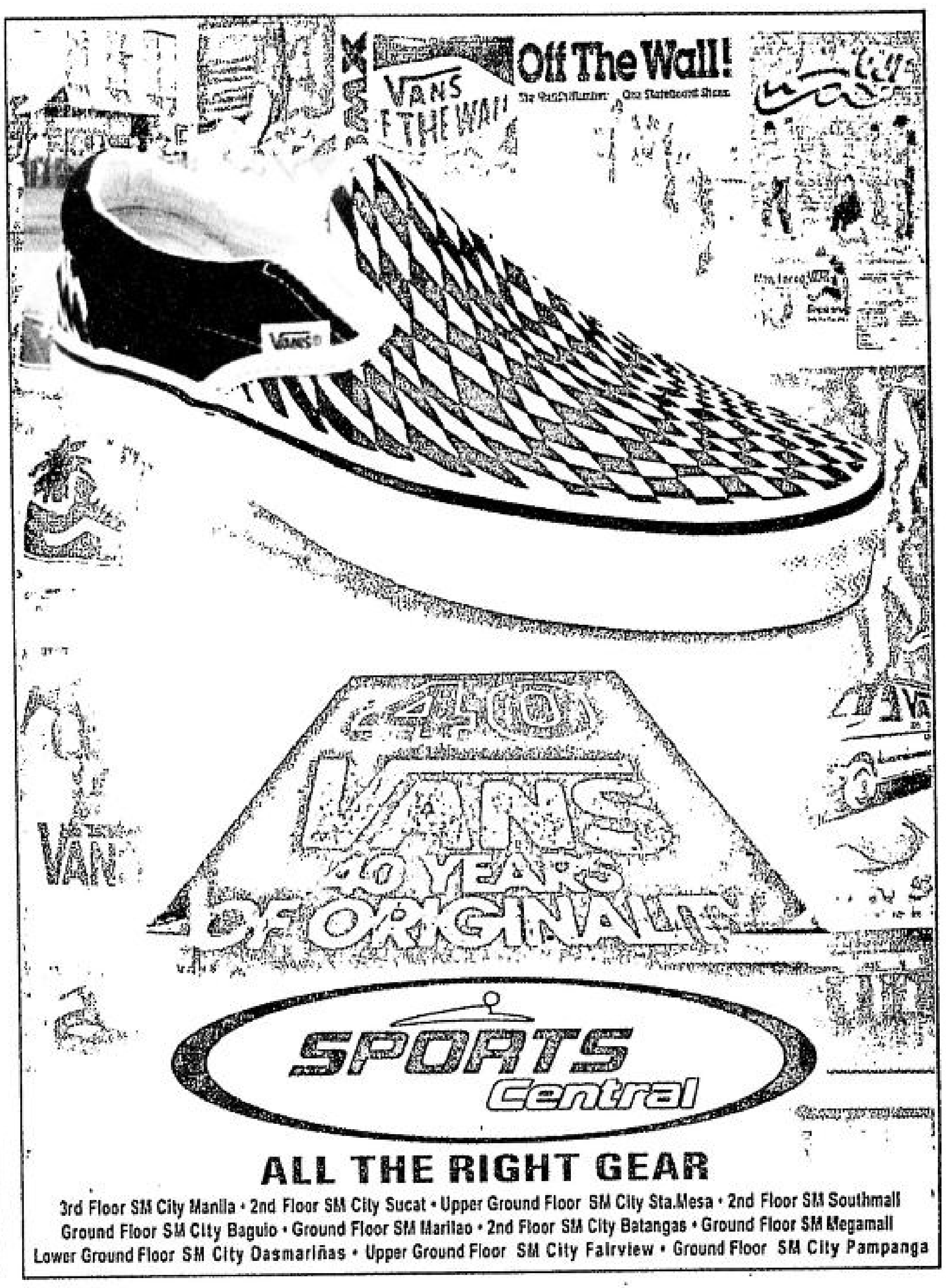
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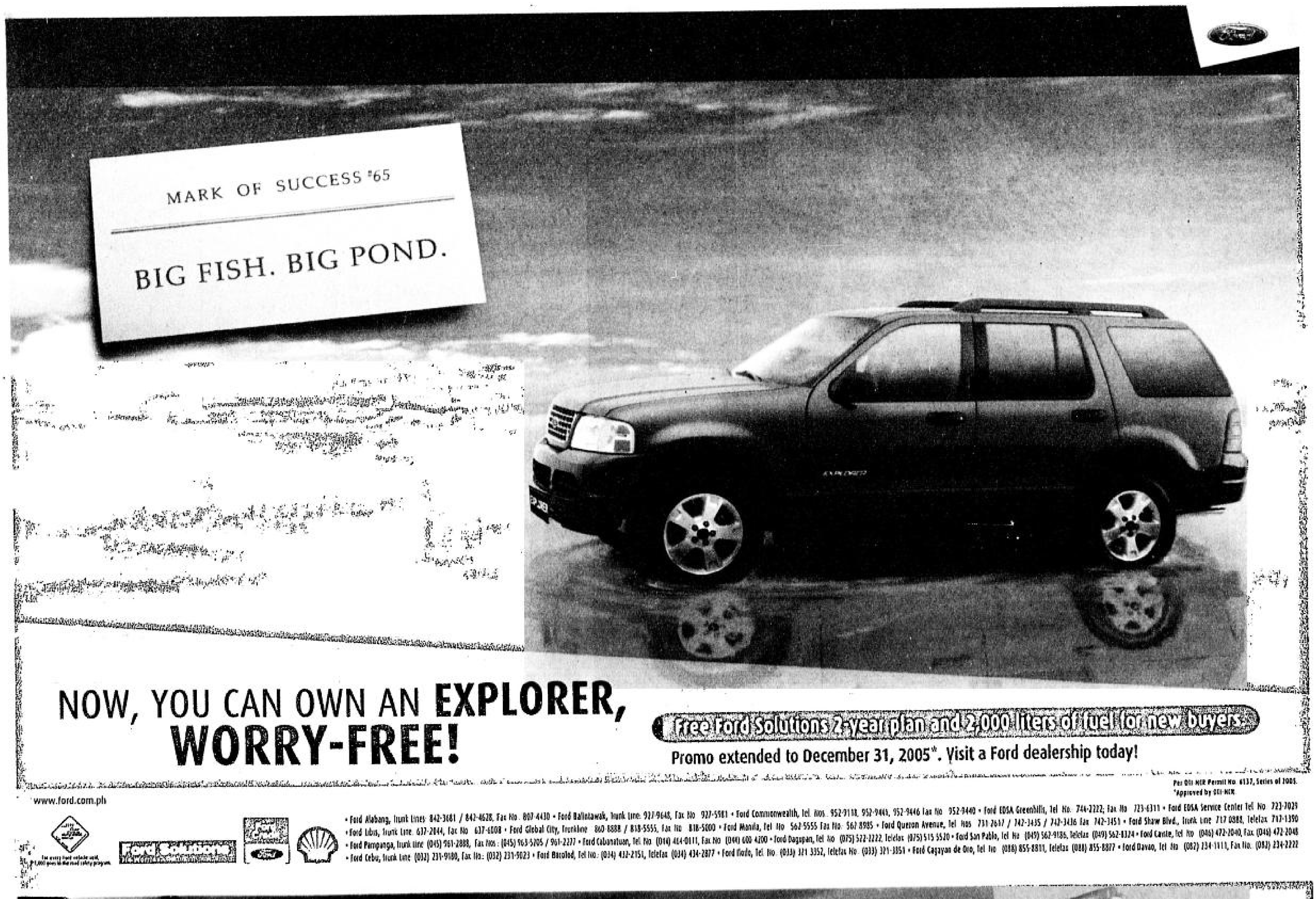
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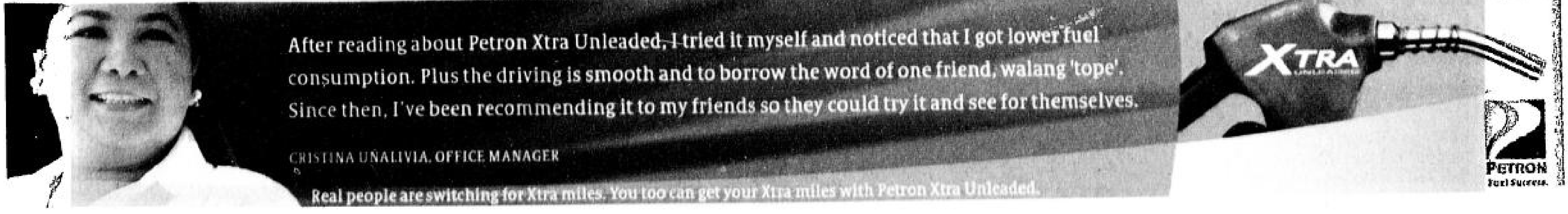
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G. Goose zaps Hapee-PCU for third win

By Marc Anthony Reyes

RJ QUINAHAN LITERALLY THREW HIS weight around, scoring 16 points including back-to-back clutch baskets as Granny Goose Tortillos blasted Hapee-PCU, 65-55, for its third straight victory in the 2006 PBL Heroes Cup yesterday at the JCSGO Gym in Cubao.

The burly 6-foot-5 Quinahan touched off an 8-0 windup for the Snackmasters, who moved up to solo second at 3-1 while sending the Teethmasters down to their third loss in four outings.

Quinahan, dubbed as the "Baby Shaq" of Cebu due to some resemblance of his style of play with NBA superstar Shaquille O'Neal, also finished with 11 rebounds, two blocks and one steal in 26 minutes of play.

Montaña Pawnshop, with Al Vergara hitting key baskets in the last quarter, downed Far Eastern Insurance, 70-61, in the second game.

Vergara hit a three-pointer at the start of the fourth quarter and added four more in the final three minutes to finish with 16 points and lift the Jewels to their second win in four games.

The Insurers fell to their fourth straight defeat.

Now handled by coach Joe Lipa, the Snackmasters controlled the game in the second quarter to even take a 44-27 bubble three minutes into the third quarter.

But the Teethmasters managed to claw back through Jason Castro, whose six straight points allowed Hapee to move within 51-55.

Quinahan stopped the rally with a short jumper off Beau Belga that touched off a 10-4 windup by the Snackmasters.

Castro finished with 19 points for Hapee, which drew little help from 2004 NCAA MVP and Rookie of the Year Gabby Espinas.

STANDINGS	W	L
Magnolia	3	0
Granny T.	3	1
Harbour C.	2	1
Rain or Shine	2	1
Montaña	2	2
Toyota Otis	1	2
Hapee-PCU	1	3
Far Eastern	0	4

GAMES TOMORROW
(*FEU gym*)
2 p.m.—Hapee-PCU vs Toyota Otis
4 p.m.—Harbour Centre vs Magnolia

First Game

GRANNY GOOSE 65—Quinahan 16, Latonio 8, Santos 8, David 6, Grijaldo 6, Lanete 5, Concha 4, Ferrer 4, Gavino 3, Cruz 2, Ibanez 0.

HAPEE-PCU 55—Castro 19, Sanz 11, Espinas 8, Belga 6, Gonzales 4, Misa 3, Moreno 2, Razon 1, Solis 1, Gloria 0, Amparado 0, Garrido 0, Cecila 0, Baculi 0.

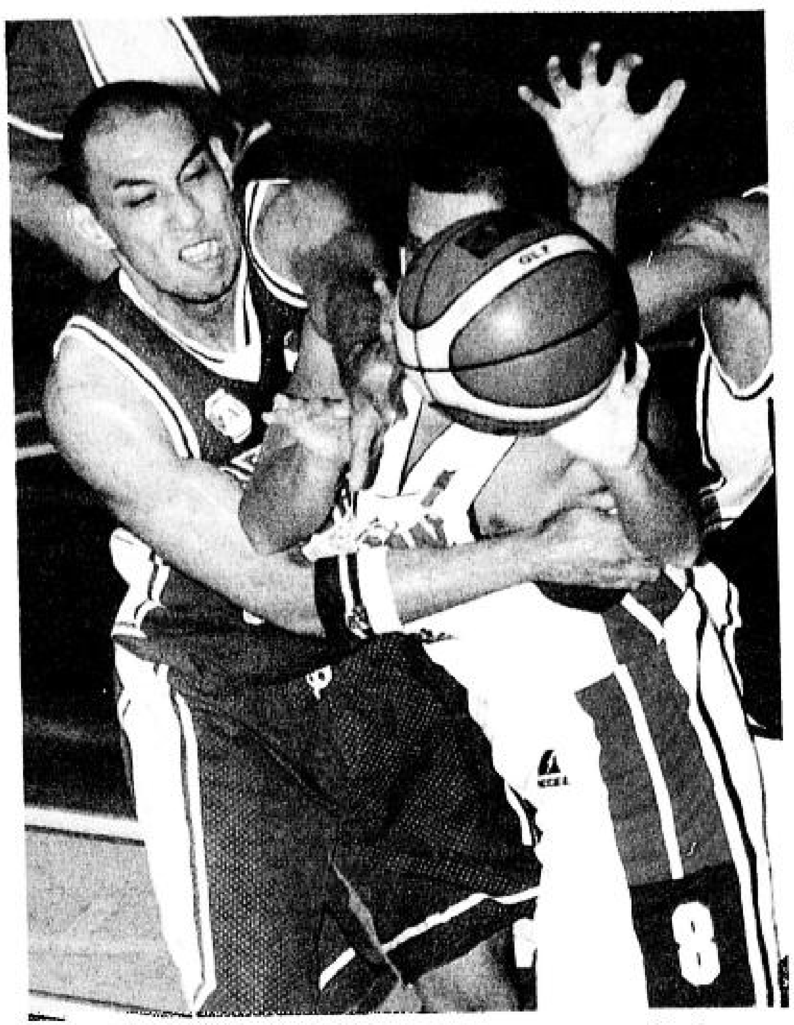
Quarters: 17-19, 40-27, 50-39, 65-55

Second Game

MONTANA 70—Vergara 16, Juntilla 15, Compton 13, Guerrero 6, Dela Cuesta 5, Capus 4, Baguion 4, Espiritu 3, Castro 2, Mercado 2, Bono 0.

FAR EASTERN INS. 61—Bonus 11, Guerrero 10, Bravo 8, Yee 8, Sierra 6, Estrada 6, Gamboa 5, Latoreno 3, Marquez 3, Epondulan 1, Delgado 0, Cruz 0, Coronel 0.

Quarters: 25-18, 37-30, 53-47, 70-61



FAR Eastern Insurance's Jay-ar Estrada (left) harasses and fouls Montaña's Ric Dela Cuesta in their game yesterday. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Court orders POC to . . .

From page A25

ball federation) refused to acknowledge the POC action and instead banned the country from, among others, organizing basketball tournaments like the SEAG cagefest.

As a result, POC president and Philsoc head Jose "Peping" Cojuangco announced during a SEAG Federation Council meeting last week that basketball would be scrapped since the BAP is no longer a POC member and its officials cannot supervise and conduct the sport as required by tournament rules.

Judge Barrios told the POC, in a four-page decision, "to restore, reinstate and recognize the BAP ... as a regular member of the POC with the same rights, privileges and status as was enjoyed by or accorded to said entity prior to the suspension and or expulsion."

Appeal to POC

A press statement from the BAP said that it is "on with basketball in the SEA Games."

The POC, though, still has the ball in its hands and can push to prolong the court proceedings if it chooses to.

"The BAP is sincerely extending its hands of peace and reconciliation to the POC for the sake of peace and unity in basketball," said BAP president Joey Lina in a press statement. "I appeal to the POC to immediately comply with the court's order.

"If the POC complies with the court order and informs Fiba about it, Fiba's suspension of the Philippines is automatically lifted," he added.

There was no reaction from Cojuangco, through his spokeman Joey Romasanta, which was requested by the INQUIRER through a phone call yesterday.

The BAP has continued with the training and preparation of its team in Cebu under coach Boysie Zamar.

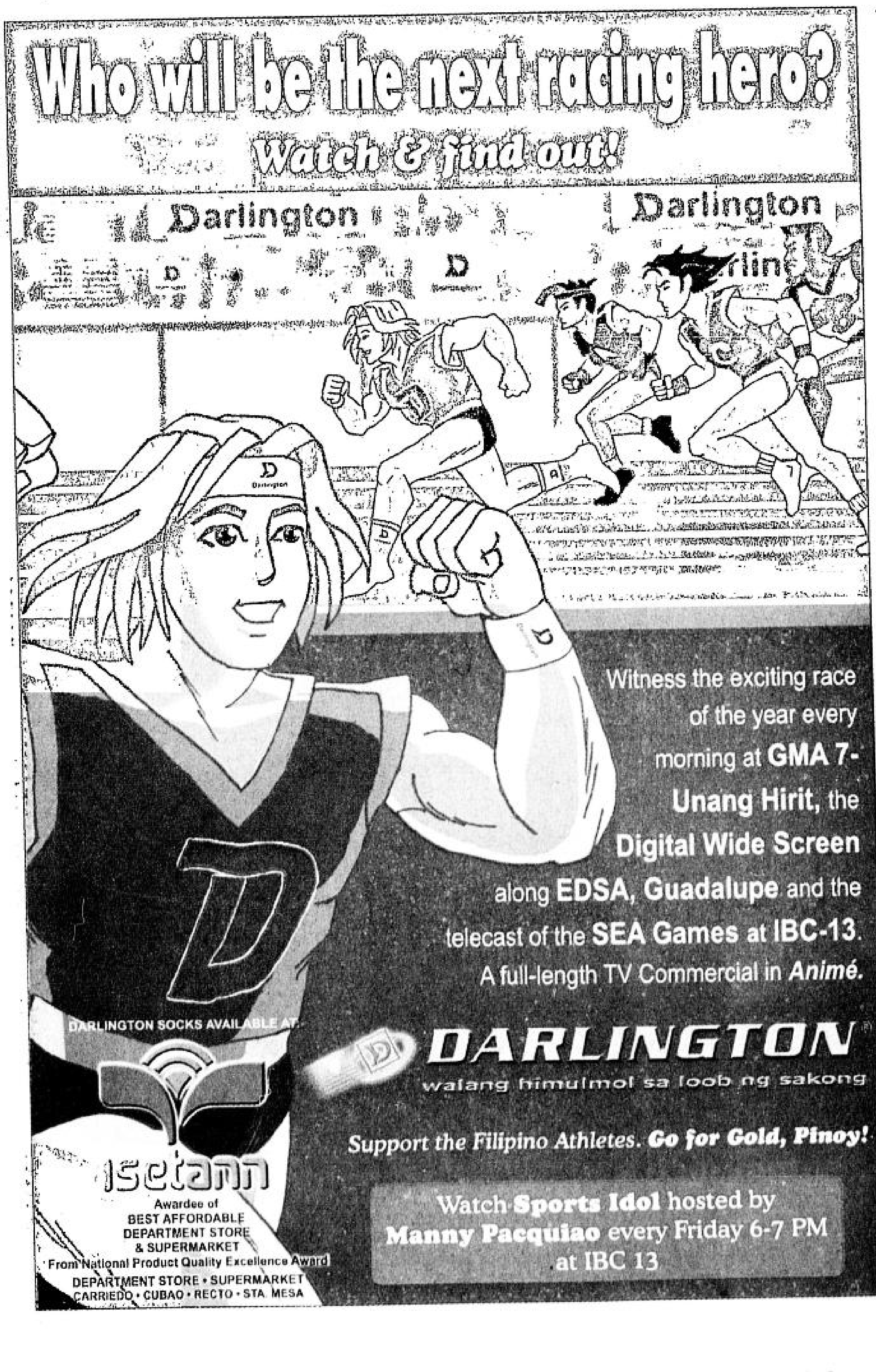
Until the Fiba suspension, the Philippines is expected to win the basketball SEAG gold for the sixth straight time.

Peña unhurt in crash

MACAU—DADO PEÑA FIGURED in a multiple-car collision shortly after the actual start of the practice run on Thursday but this failed to dampen his competitive spirit going into the qualifying run for the Formula Renault race of the 52nd Macau Grand Prix here.

All competing drivers were required to complete a two-lap test run on the 6.4-kilometer Guia Circuit before they were officially timed. The actual 10-lap race is on Sunday.

"I had no space to pass," said Peña, whose stint here is backed by Tiger Airways, ICTSI, Inc., PLDT MyPAD, PLDT MyDSL, Addict Mobile, Hanjin Shipping and tigerairways.com. "Things like this happen and there was simply no way for me to stop."



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RB Barako, Phone Pals clash; SLR battles SMB

RED BULL BARAKO AND TALK 'N Text, both victims by last-second shots, will clash twice in a span of three days starting today in the San Mig Coffee-PBA Fiesta Conference at the Ynares Center in Antipolo City.

Waylaid by the Purefoods Chunkee Giants on Noy Castillo's 15-footer in the dying seconds, the Barako try to bounce back from that defensive lapse in the 4:40 p.m. encounter.

The Phone Pals also suffered the same fate when Kenneth Duremdes drained a three-pointer in the nick of time for the Sta. Lucia Realtors during a provincial game Saturday in Zamboanga City.

But while the Phone Pals (6-3) are within easy reach of the solo-leading Giants, the Barako (5-5) are struggling to achieve a measure of consistency going into the crucial stages of the classification round.

Meanwhile, Sta. Lucia Realty tries to keep its streak going against luckless San Miguel Beer in the other game at 7:40 p.m.

The Realtors (4-6) beat the Beermen (1-7) in their initial face-off last week with rookie Alex Cabagnot and Marlou Aquino taking the scoring cudgels.

Coach Yeng Guiao and the Barako have lost three of their last four games. Quemont Greer, however, was spectacular in the last two with a near triple-double against the Barangay Ginebra Kings.

The Phone Pals and the Barako will collide again on Sunday before the league takes a week-long break to give way to the PBA All-Star festivities in Laoag City.

Talk 'N Text coach Joel Banal will call the shots for the South All-Star team for the second year in a row. Interestingly, Banal's South All-Stars defeated the Guiao-mentored North squad last season.

After their Zamboanga win over the Phone Pals, the Realtors now pin high hopes on the inconsistent Omar Weaver. TJune Navarro

STANDINGS	W	L
Purefoods	8	3
Talk 'N Text	6	3
Ginebra	7	4
Air21	5	5
Alaska	5	5
Red Bull	5	5
Sta. Lucia	4	6
Coca-Cola	3	6
San Miguel	1	7

GAMES TODAY (*Ynares Center*)
4:40 p.m.—Red Bull Barako vs Talk 'N Text
7:40 p.m.—Sta. Lucia Realty vs San Miguel Beer

Menk, Taulava headline crack South All-Stars

THE FIL-AM TANDEM OF ERIC Menk and Asi Taulava goes up against the local combination of Romel Adducul and Danny Ildefonso as they headline one of the key matchups in the 2005 Talk 'N Text-PBA All-Star Game in Laoag next week. Menk and Taulava, the league's MVPs the past two seasons, have been voted starters for the South squad, which also have San Miguel's Danny Seigle, Taulava's Talk 'N Text teammate Jimmy Alapag and Purefoods second year guard James Yap in its first unit. Joel Banal, the same architect of South's thrilling win over North in last year's edition of the annual spectacle, will call the shots again for the South squad. Adducul and Ildefonso start out for the North team of coach Ryan Gregorio together with the Ginebra tandem of Mark Caguioa and Jayjay Helterbrand and Purefoods sophomore Marc Pingris.

Miñoza fires 70; Que way off

HANOI—FRANKIE MIÑOZA RETURNED TO the Asian Tour in style Thursday, but defending champion Angelo Que faced the specter of an early exit in the $200,000 Carlsberg Masters 2005 Vietnam presented by Thai Airways here.

Miñoza, the top Filipino shotmaker, fired a two-under-par 70 at the Chi Linh Star Golf and Country Club to end up four strokes behind first-round leader Danny Chia of Malaysia, who opened up with a sizzling 66.

Que, who scored a breakthrough win here last year, struggled with a 76 that barely qualified him for the second round along with 12 others.

He had nines of 37-39 on a course where he outplayed Thai star Thongchai Jaidee and former US Open champion Corey Pavin to clinch top spot in the inaugural edition of the event.

Gerald Rosales matched par 72 but Cookie La'O and Carito Villaroman also started poorly with rounds of 75 and 74, respectively.

Miñoza, who finished in the top 10 in the Bangkok Airways Open last month, birdied three of his first five holes for a 33 coming out.

With earnings of $87,368 in 10 events, Miñoza is using the event as warmup for the final leg of the Japan Tour qualifying set late this month.

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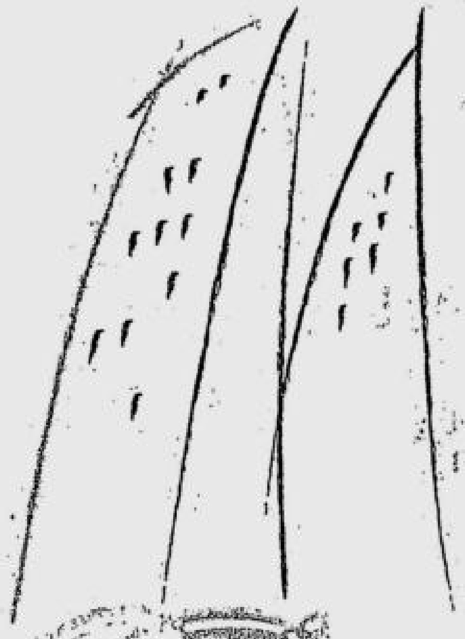

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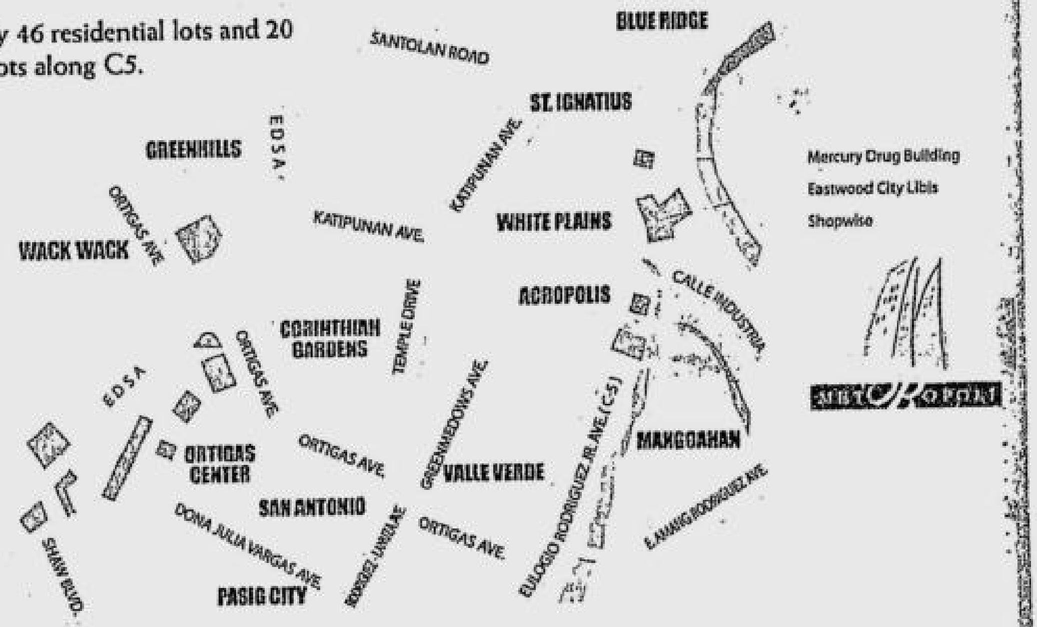
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Sixers stretch streak; Lakers recover

TORONTO—ALLEN IVERSON NOTCHED his 60th career 40-point game on Wednesday as Philadelphia kept Toronto winless in the National Basketball Association.

Iverson scored a season-high 42 points as the 76ers withstood a second-half surge and held on for their sixth straight victory, a 121-115 triumph over the hapless Raptors.

Andre Iguodala made six 3-pointers and two clutch free throws en route to a career-high 26 points for the Sixers, who squandered a 20-point first-quarter lead but regrouped to continue their longest winning streak since the Larry Brown era.

A four-time scoring champion, Iverson had yet to explode this season as he has tried to work with fellow superstar Chris Webber in coach Maurice Cheeks' offense. But he broke out Wednesday, making 16-of-26 shots and 9-of-11 free throws.

Iverson scored 19 points in a scorching first quarter that looked like a replay of Philadelphia's 104-92 home win over Toronto on Tuesday. His jumper gave the Sixers a 37-17 lead late in the period.

But unlike Tuesday, when the Raptors rolled over, Toronto fought back, forging a 74-74 tie midway through the third quarter on a 3-pointer by rookie Charlie Villanueva, who had his third straight solid game with 13 points.

The Sixers quickly regained the lead and took a 90-82 advantage into the final period. They barely held on behind Iverson and Iguodala, who scored 12 points in the fourth quarter.

Philadelphia has won 24 of the last 26 games in which Iverson has scored 40 or more points and is 42-18 all-time.

Mike James scored 38 points—establishing a career high for the second time in three games—for the Raptors, who fell to a league-worst 0-8. Swingman Jalen Rose had foul trouble and was held scoreless for the first time since Feb. 20, 1998.

In Los Angeles, Kobe Bryant scored a season-high 42 points on Wednesday to lift the Lakers to a 97-92 victory over the New York Knicks.

SOLAR Sports will air the Minnesota Timberwolves home game against the Washington Wizards at 8 a.m. today.

Bryant had scored a total of 35 points in the Lakers' last two games on 14-of-45 shooting while battling an injury to his right index finger.

But Bryant got hot and Los Angeles took advantage of the cold-shooting Knicks in the fourth quarter, denying them a third straight victory.

Bryant scored at least 40 points for the 41st time in his career by making 15-of-36 shots and 12-of-14 free throws.

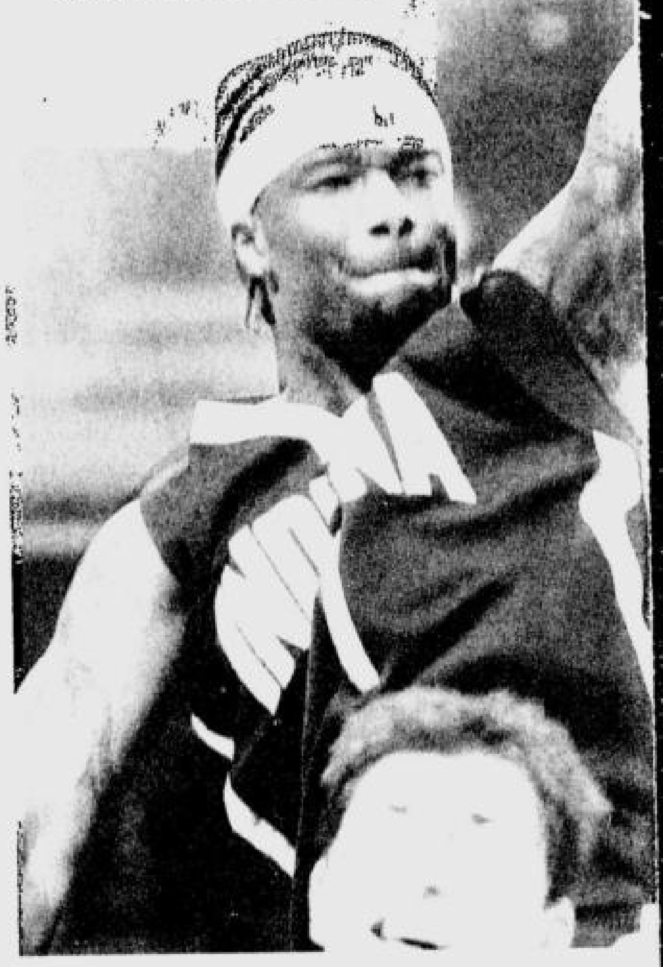
Los Angeles owns a 29-12 record when Bryant reaches the 40-point mark.

With the Lakers holding a 78-72 lead, Bryant scored eight straight points on three jumpers and two free throws to start the fourth quarter, opening some breathing room. His jumper capped the burst and provided an 86-72 lead with 7:55 to go.

After scoring the final six points of the third quarter to get close, the Knicks killed any momentum they had by missing their first 11 shots of the fourth period. They made 8-of-27 shots over the final 12 minutes. *AFP*

Complete results

PHILADELPHIA 121, Toronto 115; Charlotte 122, Indiana 90; Seattle 113, Boston 100; Denver 91, N.O./ Oklahoma City 81; Memphis 115, Phoenix 103; Portland 96, Chicago 93; LA Lakers 97, NY Knicks 92; Milwaukee 90, Golden State 87.


PACERS' Jermaine O'Neal dunks over Bobcats' Primoz Br

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3:00 pm to 5:00 pm	Weight Training by MARC NELSON	Boxing Clinic by CHINGGAY ANDRADA	Power Lifting Challenge by IMPACT	Taekwondo Demo by KIX	Mixed Martial Arts Demo by IMPACT
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Davydenko rips Gaudio

SHANGHAI, CHINA—NIKOLAY DAVYDENKO followed his upset of Andre Agassi with a 6-3, 6-4 victory Wednesday over Gaston Gaudio, clinching a spot in the semifinals of the Tennis Masters Cup.

Seventh-ranked Davydenko faced triple break-point in the 10th game of the second set against 2004 French Open champion Gaudio, but rallied to force deuce with an overhead crosscourt. Two forehand winners gave Davydenko the match.

Davydenko has played more tournaments (30) than any other player in the Top 10 in 2005 and is planning to make the most of his opportunities in Shanghai.

A path through the round-robin stage has opened in front of him because of injuries and absentees that have drained the event of some of its biggest stars.

Davydenko will be the highest ranked player in the semifinals behind two-time defending champion Roger Federer. *AP*

PCA registration winds up Sunday

THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF ENTRIES to all tennis enthusiasts for this year's edition of the 24th Philippine Columbian Association (PCA) Open has been set Nov. 20 for both the team and junior's events, and Dec. 2 for the Open division.

Entries will be accepted at the PCA office on or before 12 noon of the set deadlines.

The tournament, presented by Basilan Gov. Muslim "Wahab" Akbar, offers competition in singles and doubles for men's and ladies, as well as in singles and doubles in boys and girls (juniors division).

The team tennis event for men is scheduled Dec. 3, 4, 11, 17 and 18, while the ladies is set Dec. 15 to 18. The juniors division is set Nov. 25 to Dec. 4.

The qualifying round of the tournament, one of the longest running and most prestigious in the country, for men's and ladies singles and doubles will be on Dec. 5-9, while the main draw is set Dec. 10-18.

Supporting the PCA Open are Solar Sports, Accel, Philippine Star, Philippine Daily Inquirer, MILS, CEL Consolidators and Freight Forwarders, Little Lawrence, Strong Hold, Coca-Cola, San Miguel, Sun Village.

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Future Basketbal

A TRULY GRASSROOTS BASKETBALL DEVELOPment program for boys and girls from ages 8 to 13 opens this weekend, Nov. 19, at the Ateneo Blue Eagle gym in Katipunan.

Aptly named the Futures Basketball League (FBL) the school-based tournament attracted a field of 5 girls teams, 11 in the boys mini (8 to 10 years old) and 17 in the midgets (11 to 13 years old).

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Mang Erning and the fairway virgin

By Percy D. Della

THERE'S NO NEED TO CRANK UP THE RUMOR MILL AT Mabalacat's Marina Hills Golf and Country Club.

It's true.

We swear by Mulligan's grave that Mang Erning Ignacio de-flowered a 55-year-old fairway virgin around those parts recently.

Now, now. Before you get any nasty ideas, Mang Erning is not a sex fiend.

He "devirgins" for a living. The 58-year-old's an unlikely stud on the green. A wisp of a man probably 5-foot-3, about 130 lbs, he carries golf bags and more.

As a caddie, he breaks fairway first-timers in the ways of golf. He makes initial stabs at the game a fun and exhilarating experience.

Mang Erning tells you to learn golf like a child's first step—expect a whole lot of falling down and going bust. But somewhere near the end of a bumpy ride for nine holes or the full 18, he'll guarantee that you'd know a 5-iron from a steam iron.

There's a lot more Mang Ernings out there—for more than the 50,000 or so lucky ones who play golf on a regular basis in about 100 courses throughout the islands, says Jake Ayson of the game's national association.

If Mr. Ignacio's optimism for newcomers seems eternal, his stardom was not. As a teenager, he learned to play golf at the old Clark Golf Club, courtesy of American servicemen.

But pursuing golf to the fullest was beyond reach for poor kids like Ernesto Ignacio then.

COMMENTARY

Nothing's changed much since. The lack of a grassroots campaign, the lack of funds period, is the culprit, admits Mr. Ayson.

Thus, the opportunity remains lost to drum up a wider interest in a sport where Filipinos can excel internationally.

Golf is an outdoors game offering fresh air and exercise. The object is to whack a small hard ball with specially designed clubs into holes or cups strategically placed along nine or 18-hole courses.

It is similar to an improvised sport we played as kids in which we hit the heck out of a crushed evaporated milk can with bamboo canes.

The goal is the same—to advance the projectile into a hole, with as few strokes as possible.

Which brings us back to Mang Erning and the fairway virgin—a match not exactly made in heaven. It was a union arranged by Teody Verzola, Jun Kapunan and Rey Sumang.

To complete a foursome, the three had persuaded a Job-like persona to hold the hands of a wannabe through nine holes at Marina, a poor man's golf paradise and alternative links to pricey Mimosa.

It would take another column to chronicle how the virgin was cajoled into shelling out for the green fee and for Mang Erning's services.

Let's just say Mr. Ignacio, the gentleman caddie, also served as an arbiter of manners during a freewheeling round of golf.

Where the ball was whiffed at almost every tee; where the virgin got to know the late Mr. Mulligan a lot.

To fairway virgins out there, a word of advice: Scamper to a golf dictionary nearest you. The earlier you got to know Mr. Mulligan, the better.

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Australia, Trinidad and Tobago enter World Cup with 3 others

PARIS—THE CAST LIST FOR THE 2006 World Cup was finally completed on Wednesday when the remaining five of the 32 available places were snapped up by Australia, Spain, Switzerland, Trinidad and Tobago and the Czech Republic.

This quintet sealed their seats at next year's feast of football in Germany via the play-offs in markedly different ways.

While Spain cruised to its ninth straight World Cup finals with a 6-2 aggregate win over Slovakia, it couldn't have been tighter in Sydney where Australia defeated two time winners Uruguay on penalties.

The Australians ended 32 years of World Cup heartache after goalkeeper Mark Schwarzer saved spot-kicks from Dario Rodriguez and Marcelo Zalayeta to lift them to a 4-2 shoot-out win.

The game was locked up at 1-1 on aggregate after extra time.

John Aloisi, who came on as a substitute in the first period of extra time, converted the winning penalty to send his team-mates and the full house of 82,698 delirious with joy.

It was another triumph for Dutch coach Guus Hiddink, who was only in charge of the Australian team for his fifth game since coming in for Frank Farina in July.

Hiddink will now take Australia to next year's finals after leading the Netherlands and South Korea to the semi-finals of the last two World Cups.

"It was a huge challenge because we had not that much time to prepare," he said after his side had avenged their 2002 World Cup play-off loss to Uruguay.

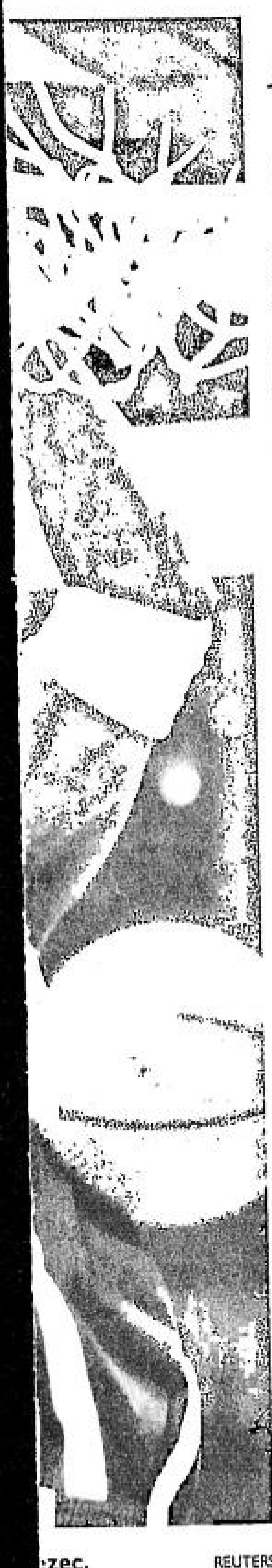
Defeat for Uruguay left it as the only former world champion not to make it to Germany.

In Manama, Trinidad and Tobago staged a remarkable comeback to ensure it'd be rubbing shoulders with the sport's superpowers next year in what will be its World Cup debut.

After an all important away goal in the 1-1 first leg draw in Port-of-Spain Bahrain were firmly in the driving seat but Trinidad ensured it became the first Caribbean island to make it to the finals since Jamaica in 1998 with a 49th minute goal from Dennis Lawrence.

Like the Trinidadians the Czech Republic were celebrating their first World Cup appearance with a 1-0 win over Norway after defeating the Scandinavians by the same margin in the first leg.

Over in Istanbul Turkey, third in 2002, lost out despite beating Switzerland, 4-2. *AFP*



zec. REUTERS

Duval leads Woods by 1 in Dunlop golf

MIYAZAKI, JAPAN—DAVID DUVAL led by one stroke over reigning champ Tiger Woods on the first day of Japan's richest golf tournament, the Dunlop Phoenix, firing a six-under-par 64 on Thursday.

The struggling Duval, a former world number one who has made the cut at only one PGA event this year, reeled off four straight birdies at one point, finishing with a birdie in one of his best tournament rounds in years.

The 34-year-old won the British Open and Dunlop Phoenix in 2001, but has not been in the winner's circle since.

"It's nice to put the pieces together over the past few weeks," Duval said.

"I'm very aware of how I've played over the last few years. It's nice to have a tournament when I start well."

Woods, the current world number one who earned over $10.6 million on the PGA tour this year, was hurt by a bogey on the second hole but still remained just off the pace.

DUVAL: 'My physical condition is incredibly mediocre.' AP

The American said he was happy with his five-under-par performance, including a recovery for par from the woods on the par four 13th.

Woods said watching his former World Cup partner Duval's struggle with health and performance has been difficult over the last few years.

"It's been tough for all of us to watch," Woods said.

"But he's coming back to a place where he won before and that always helps."

Duval said despite his strong performance on Thursday he was still not healthy.

"My physical condition is incredibly mediocre," he said, citing back, foot and hand pain that has kept him from physical training for two years.

American Jim Furyk and Japanese pros Shinichi Yokota and Tomohiro Kondo each were two shots back at 67 in the tournament held at Japan's Phoenix Country Club on the southern island of Kyushu. *Reuters*

SPORTSWATCH

Sorenstam to defend ADT crown

SORENSTAM

WEST PALM BEACH, FLORIDA—LPGA SUPERSTAR Annika Sorenstam has another milestone in her sights this week as she launches her defense of the $1 million ADT Championship. Sorenstam headlines the elite field of the top 30 players on the LPGA money list as she launches her eighth attempt to defend a title this year—five of which have already been successful. She is enjoying yet another stellar season with nine victories in 19 events and nearly $2.4 million in earnings and is seeking to post the second double-digit victory season of her career. She enters the week with a 69.25 scoring average, which leads Cristie Kerr by an astounding 1 1/2 strokes. Rookie of the Year Paula Creamer, who is ranked second on the money list, will look for her third LPGA victory of the season. Kerr and Filipimo Jennifer Rosales are in the field. *AFP*

LPGA offers record prize money

WEST PALM BEACH, FLORIDA—THE US LPGA TOUR WILL PLAY FOR A RECORD $47.3 million (euro40.5 million) in at least 32 official events next year, culminating with a $1 million (euro850,000) payoff to whoever shoots the best score in the final 18 holes of the year. LPGA Tour commissioner Carolyn Bivens released the 2006 schedule on Wednesday, along with details of a playoff system that will be the first of its kind in golf. The tour will have five purses over $2 million (euro1.7 million), the largest being the US Women's Open, which was $3.1 million (euro2.6 million) last year. The biggest event in women's golf, it will be held the weekend before the Fourth of July at Newport Country Club in Rhode Island. *AP*

Asian Tour adds 4 new tourneys

SINGAPORE—THE ASIAN TOUR WILL ADD FOUR NEW TOURNAMENTS NEXT year and boost prize money to a record $23 million... New events include the Amby Valley Masters in India, Johor Open in Malaysia, Pakistan Open and the Royal Trophy in Bangkok. **The 2006 schedule:** Dec 18-21: Asia Japan Okinawa Open, Japan Jan 5-8: The Royal Trophy, Bangkok Jan 19-22: Pakistan Open, Karachi Jan 26-29: Qatar Masters, Doha Feb 9-12: Johnnie Walker Classic, Perth Feb 16-19: Malaysian Open, Kuala Lumpur Feb 23-26: Myanmar Open Mar 2-5: Amby Valley Masters, India Mar 16-19: TCL Classic, China Apr 13-16: Volvo China Open, China Apr 20-23: BMW Asian Open, China May 4-7: SK Telecom Open, South Korea May 11-14: Maekyung Open, Seoul May 18-21: Macau Open May 25-28: Philippine Open June 1-4: Bangkok Airways Open, Thailand Aug 24-27: Brunei Open Aug 31-Sept 3: Johor Open, Malaysia Sept 7-10: Singapore Open Sept 14-17: Korean Open Sept 21-24: Taiwan Open Sept 28-Oct 1: Taiwan Masters Oct 5-8: Hero Honda Indian Open, Delhi Oct 19-22: Crowne Plaza Open, China Nov 9-12: HSBC Champions, China Nov 16-19: UBS Hong Kong Open Dec 14-17: Volvo Masters of Asia, Thailand. *AFP*

RACING

AT SANTA ANA BY MR. 999

Race 1—1. Don Exequiel 2. Key Element 3. Speed King 4. Rebecca's Magic
Race 2—1. Kitana 2. Mystika 3. Good Day 4. Chances Are
Race 3—1. Mojito 2. Puede Ba 3. Surprise Target 4. Penny Wise
Race 4—1. Vivere 2. U Are My Sunshine 3. Batangas Force 4. Angie Gray 5. Ahoy My Boy
Race 5—1. Sheza Winner 2. Kay Akino 3. Cool N Sazzy 4. Terry Toon
Race 6—1. Man Power 2. Joker 3. Victory Ranger 4. Sambat 5. Better Strike
Race 7—1. Federal Court 2. Scarlet Velvet 3. Snow Princess 4. Graceful Conqueror
Race 8—1. Full of Fury 2. Boxster 3. Step on the Gas 4. Prima Vera 5. Cool Town
Race 9—1. Constant Queen 2. King Size 3. Streisand 4. Modern Classic 5. Jokes Only 6. Shifty

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In the boys midget division, the teams are UPIS, Marist, Kinas Montessori, Ateneo de Manila, San Beda-Alabang, Community of Learners, Don Bosco-Makati, Faith Christian, Don Bosco-Mandaluyong, Aquinas, De La Salle-Zobel, Lourdes-Mandaluyong, Gold Sun Beam, St. Thomas More, Our Lady of Lourdes-Antipolo, La Salle-Antipolo and Marymount.

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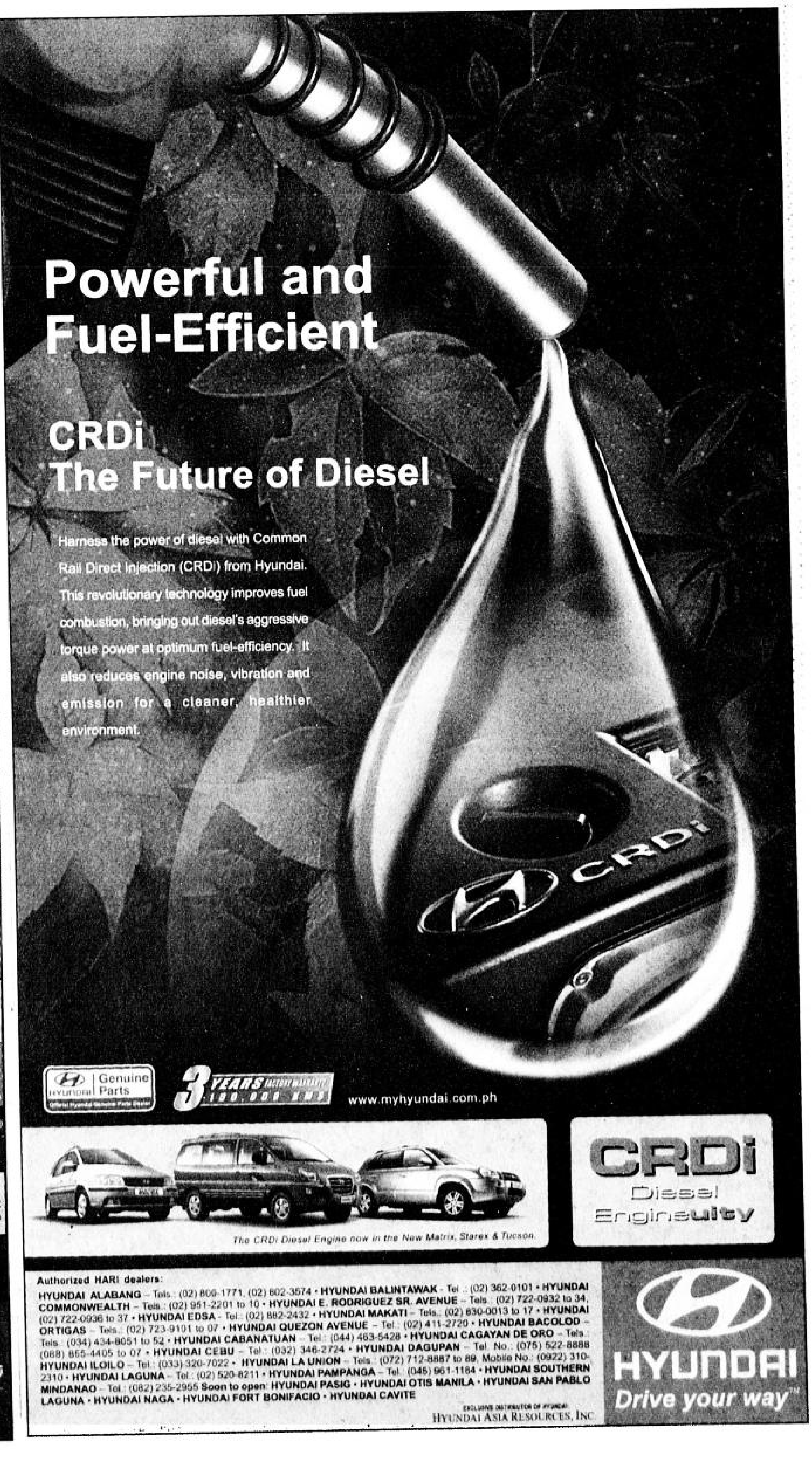
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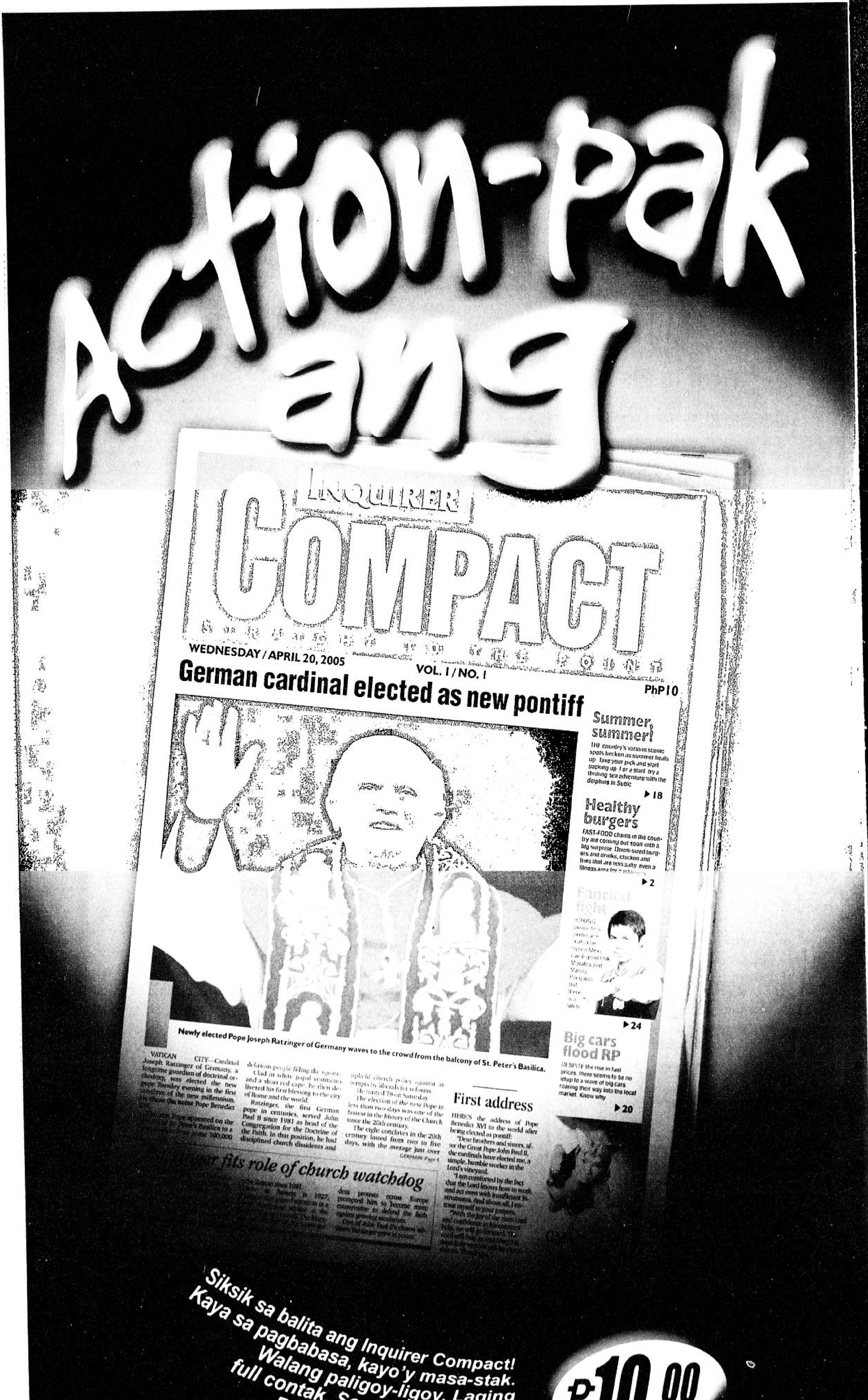

INQUIRER

COMPACT

WEDNESDAY / APRIL 20, 2005

VOL. 1 / NO. 1

PhP10

German cardinal elected as new pontiff

Newly elected Pope Joseph Ratzinger of Germany waves to the crowd from the balcony of St. Peter's Basilica.

VATICAN CITY—Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger of Germany, a longtime guardian of doctrinal orthodoxy, was elected the new pope Tuesday evening in the first conclave of the new millennium. He chose the name Pope Benedict XVI.

The new Pope appeared on the balcony of St. Peter's Basilica to a [illegible] some 100,000 delirious people filling the square.

Clad in white papal vestments and a short red cape, he then delivered his first blessing to the city of Rome and the world.

Ratzinger, the first German pope in centuries, served John Paul II since 1981 as head of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. In that position, he had disciplined church dissidents and upheld church policy against attempts by liberals for reforms.

He turned 78 on Saturday.

The election of the new Pope in less than two days was one of the fastest in the history of the Church since the 20th century.

The eight conclaves in the 20th century lasted from two to five days, with the average just over

GERMAN/Page 4

First address

HERE'S the address of Pope Benedict XVI to the world after being elected as pontiff:

"Dear brothers and sisters, after the Great Pope John Paul II, the cardinals have elected me, a simple, humble worker in the Lord's vineyard.

"I am comforted by the fact that the Lord knows how to work and act even with insufficient instruments. And above all, I entrust myself to your prayers.

"With the joy of the risen Lord and confidence in his constant help, we will go forward. The Lord will help us and Mary, his most holy mother, will be on our side. [illegible]

[illegible] fits role of church watchdog

[illegible] the Vatican since 1981. [illegible] in Bavaria in 1927, [illegible] gained attention as a [illegible] adviser at the [illegible]

[illegible] dent protests across Europe prompted him to become more conservative to defend the faith against growing secularism.

One of John Paul II's closest advisers, Ratzinger grew in power.

Summer, summer!

THE country's various scenic spots beckon as summer heats up. Take your pick and start packing up. For a start, try a thrilling sea adventure with the dolphins in Subic.

▶ 18

Healthy burgers

FAST-FOOD chains in the country are coming out soon with a big surprise. Down-sized burgers and drinks, chicken and fries that are less salty, even a fitness area for customers.

▶ 2

Fancied fight

BOXING promoters prefer a [illegible] between Mexican legend Erik Morales and Manny Pacquiao. But there [illegible] catch.

▶ 24

Big cars flood RP

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▶ 20

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RUDY Fernandez, a runner and swimmer, carries the SEAG torch in Bacolod yesterday.

ARNOLD ALMACEN

Austere SEAG rites in Bacolod tomorrow

By Cedelf Tupas
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—AN AUSTERE BUT FESTIVE two-hour ceremony will usher in the city's hosting of the Southeast Asian Games on Saturday at the Panaad Park and Stadium here.

Working on a P1 million budget, producers of the program yesterday said the show will go "anti-technology" and instead maximize the use of indigenous materials and showcase Negros Occidental's culture and heritage.

Admission for the opening is free.

In fact, the show's creative director, Tanya Lopez, said the stage at the Panaad had been adorned with amacan, while the SEAG theme song "We Are One" has been re-arranged to accommodate native instruments.

But the Bacolod Organizing Committee yesterday expressed concern over the weather condition on Saturday after the Negros Occidental Provincial Disaster Management Team announced that there is a great possibility that Bacolod will be hit by the tailend of Typhoon Pepeng.

Rep. Monico Puentevella said they have been offering eggs and novenas at the Carmelite Monastery—a tried and tested formula here—hoping that bad weather in the SEAG venues, including in Laguna, Subic and Cebu, will not mar the Games.

Philippine Olympic Committee president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco will be present for the opening.

Among the highlights of the show are performances by the multi-awarded MassKara dancers and the La Carlota Drumbeaters as well as an earth ritual from the Don Salvador Benedicto Aeta Community.

"We're focusing on the environment," Lopez said, stressing that the "small" budget will not deter them from presenting a good show. "Bacolod is not as high-tech as Manila and Cebu."

Riza, Czarina Mae reach ITF q'finals

By Marc Anthony Reyes

RIZA ANGELA ZALAMEDA showed she's the hottest of three Fil-foreign players in the national team by bundling out Korean Kim Hae-Sung, 5-7, 6-3, 7-5, yesterday to reach the quarterfinals of the Holcim ITF Philippine Women's Circuit 2 at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center.

Zalameda, 19, kept her focus despite losing the first set and rallied from 0-2 in the third to subdue the Korean and arrange a showdown with Taiwanese Hwang I-hsuan at 10:30 a.m. today.

Czarina Mae Arevalo, the Filipino No. 1, endured a shaky second set to also advance with a 6-3, 6-4 victory over Efrat Zlotikamin of Israel.

She will take on fourth-seeded American Chrissie Seredni, who bested Slovak Maja Kambic, 7-5, 6-4.

Arevalo, who placed second in last week's first leg, climbed from 2-3 in the second set behind a solid baseline game amid cheers from the crowd to join Zalameda in the next round.

Zalameda, a prized find from UCLA who didn't see action for the past three weeks since arriving here, and Arevalo are the country's main weapons in the coming Southeast Asian Games which begins Nov. 27.

"Kim played very good today, I had to raise the level of my game," said Zalameda, who trailed Kim, 2-0, in the third set following two wayward backhands.

First-leg champion Chan Wing-Yau Venise beat Georgie Stoop of Great Britain, 6-2, 6-2, to barge into the quarters against No. 8 Korean Lee Jin-A, a 6-0, 6-1 victor over fellow Korean Seo Soon-Mi.

Briton Natasha Khan booted out second seed Thai Wilawan Choptang, 7-6 (2), 6-7 (1), 6-3. She will next take on fifth seed Pichittra Thongdach of Thailand, who defeated American qualifier Julianna Gates, 6-3, 6-4.

Bautista bout: No profit, but history

By Recah Trinidad

TAGBILARAN, BOHOL—ONCE AGAIN, THEY'RE telling Rey "Boom Boom" Bautista he would be fighting his toughest fight.

Nothing really new here. The youthful fighter had been given this false warning several times in the past.

In fact, his last "toughest fight" turned out to be a screaming Philippine picnic when he stopped a dreaded, muscle-bound foe by the name of Felix Murillo at the Staples Center in California last September to touch off a 3-for-3 knockout feat by Filipino fighters in Los Angeles, a victory parade beamed to the world by HBO.

As he had done before, the now-famous son of a fisherman and a poor market vendor from Candijay, over 80 kilometers of uneven road travel from here, has again believed the old warning.

Based on the respective records of the main fighters, "Bakbakan sa Tagbilaran" bears little promise of a classy, scientific duel.

But the result could be a masterpiece in clinical demolition.

Bautista, 18, reigning World Boxing Organization Asia-Pacific bantamweight champion, is a solid favorite against African Obote Ameme tomorrow night when they clash in the middle of a parched, forgotten football field that will partly assume the glow and glare of Las Vegas overnight.

Nicknamed Thunder, the African, with the steely hairdo and stare of a hungry Indian warrior, has a fearsome record of 27 wins, 22 via knockout.

Bautista has an unblemished 17-0 record, 13 by knockout.

"No they are grossly exaggerating," explained Tagbilaran City Mayor Dan Neri Lim when one local scribe said the grand boxing presentation could rival glitterville Las Vegas.

Fireworks will be aplenty. Entertainment portion will feature the world-renowned Loboc Children's Choir, Jerome Sala of Star-in-a-Million fame, and former Platter Bobby Soul.

Unlike Bautista, Mayor Lim, with the kind face and girth of a Santa Claus aspirant, did not have to be told he's mounting the greatest production of his first tenure as chief city executive.

"This is purely for history, no profit intended whatsoever," Lim told the INQUIRER as he supervised the finishing touches on the field whose core will be the boxing ring mounted under a huge canopy that has been rented to the tune of P400,000.

City Hall and the provincial government are footing the bulk of the bill, with major donations coming in from the congressmen of the province.

No tickets are being sold; instead, spectators will be asked to give contributions in exchange for mounted identification cards which will be honored as passes to the fight.

The card, which also features the challenge of local boy Cesar Amonsot to Indon Victor Musol for the WBO Aspac junior lightweight title, will be shown over RPN 9 starting at 1 p.m. Sunday.

Lim said his provincemates only wanted to show unity and full faith in Bautista, the most famous Boholano after President Carlos P. Garcia, in whose honor the fight site had been named.

Alumno ends gold drought

From page A25

rhythmic body movements and postures.

"It's the artistic side of the sport and people think it's easy," said the 5-foot-8 Alumno. "It looks easy but you have to focus. Synchronicity is important. You have to perfect the forms."

More impressively, it was Alumno's first time to compete in the Wai Khru event. The Baguio-based athlete, who also serves as the national team coach, has only been competing in combat Muay.

"Muay is the combative side of muay thai but I've also been training every day for Wai Khru," said Alumno, who has won several international honors in the last six years, including runner-up finishes in the World Championship.

"I just came here to coach Sumido, but our association president decided that I should also compete in the Games," he said.

Sumido lost by points to Kriangsak Ananoo of Thailand in the welterweight division (63-66 kg) with a score of 60-57.

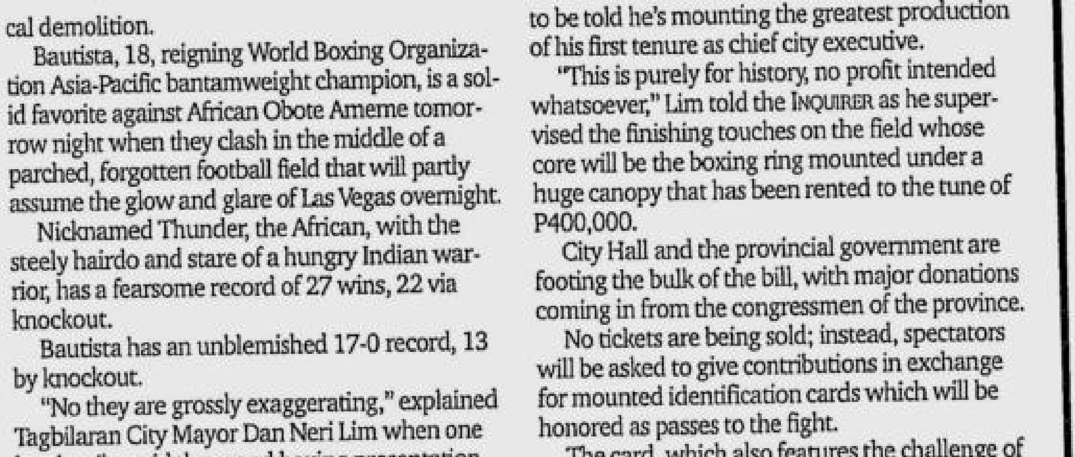
Alumno bowed to Vahid Roshani Nasaz of Iran by RSC (referee-stopped-contest) in round 1 of the middleweight division (71-75 kg).

The Philippines is also hoping for golden performances in aerobics and in the bicycle stunt event (BMX) in extreme sports.

Brian Peralta advanced to the final round of the men's individual event in aerobics yesterday at the Sapanhin Sports Complex. Peralta, Dan Luna and Alejandro Mendelebar also moved on to the medal round in the team trio event.

Armand Young Mariano was competing in the final round of the bicycle stunt event as of press time at the Suphanburi X Games Sports Stadium.

Meanwhile, China dislodged Kazakhstan in the race for overall honors with a 20-16-11 gold-silver-bronze tally. But Kazakhstan remained in strong contention for the top plum at 20-13-4, while Thailand took third at 11-15-26.



ORGANIZERS and officials of the World Chinese Invitational basketball tourney show their unity. From left, Sunny Co, George Tiu, Anil Buxani,Oscar Palabyab, Reynato Chua, Chan Cuan, Joan Cotio, Leoncio Chua, Chritian Tan.

RUDY ESPERAS

World Chinese caging slated here

HOPING TO FILL UP THE VOID LEFT BY THE scrapping of basketball in this month's Southeast Asian Games, the Philippines will play host to the 21st World Chinese Invitational basketball tournament on Nov. 24-27 in different venues around Metro Manila.

"In our own small way, we want to at least provide an alternative for basketball fans who will miss the sport in the coming SEA Games," said Leoncio Chua, president of the sponsoring Chiang Kai Shek College Evergreen Athletic Association.

The four-day event, which culminates right on the opening day of the 23rd SEAG, has already lured 1,800 Chinese cagers in four age divisions from 11 countries and 50 cities around the world.

The opening ceremony will be held at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium with no less than Manila Mayor Lito Atienza giving the keynote speech.

Competitions will be divided into four age brackets for men and women's 35-under, men's 45-under, men's 55-under and men's 60-under, according to league spokesman Sonny Co, who once played for Chiang Kai Shek College along with the legendary Lim Eng Beng before joining the PBA in its formative years.

This is the first time the country will host the invitationals whose first seven stagings were held in Los Angeles and New York. It was only held in only two SEA nations before, Thailand and Indonesia.

Marc Anthony Reyes

La Salle Zobel 'Takbo ... Talon Sa Ika-25 Taon' tomorrow

THE PARENTS ASSOCIATION OF DE LA SALLE Zobel School in Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa, will have its annual Family fun Day Affair dubbed "Takbo...Talon Sa Ika 25 Taon" tomorrow from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. The affair which is being presented in cooperation with Pagcor, McDonald's Phils., Smart Buddy, Ford Phils., Casa Belrina Travel, Elrode Boxing, Sydenham Laboratories, PLDT DSL, Sphere Gym, Yellown Cab and Skycable promises to be a great and exciting one, as the Parents Association is also celebrating its 25th year. Liza Florde is this year's president of the association

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REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
KAGAWARAN NG PANANALAPI
KAWANIHAN NG RENTAS INTERNAS

November 17, 2005

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

PUBLIC BIDDING NO. 05-008, 05-009, 05-010, 05-011

1. The Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR), through the General Appropriations Act for CY 2006 and/or CY 2005 continuing appropriations, intends to apply the sum of the following being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the ff:

PUBLIC BIDDING NO.	NAME OF CONTRACT	ABC	NON-REFUNDABLE FEE
05-008	Standard Maintenance Service for two (2) units DOVER Passenger Elevator	Php 232,239.90	Php1,000.00
05-009	Rental Service of Photocopier Machines	1,985,500.00	1,985.50
05-010	Lease of Servers for BIR Unicenter-TNG	4,719,000.00	4,719.00
05-011	Pest Control Services	471,000.00	1,000.00

Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

2. The Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR), now invites Bids from eligible bidders for the ff:

PUBLIC BIDDING NO.	DESCRIPTION	DELIVERY/ CONTRACT DURACTION
05-008	Two (2) Dover Elevator Units Location BIR-National Office Building Capacity 1630 Kgs. Speed 350 meter per second Stops/Opening 13	January 1, 2006 - December 31, 2006
05-009	Thirty Eight (38) units of Photocopier Machines Extra Heavy Duty 19 units Copy Speed 60 copies per minute Max. Paper Size 11" x 17" Features Automatic Duplexing Unit (back to back) Automatic Exposure Select (AES) Automatic Magnification Select (AMS) Automatic Paper Selection (APS). Password feature Heavy Duty 9 Units Copy Speed 40 copies per minute Max. Paper Size 11" x 17" Features Automatic Duplexing Unit (back to back) Automatic Exposure Select (AES) Automatic Magnification Select (AMS) Automatic Paper Selection (APS). Password feature Medium Duty 10 Units Copy Speed 28 copies per minute Max. Paper Size 11" x 17" Features Automatic Exposure Select (AES) Automatic Magnification Select (AMS) Automatic Paper Selection (APS). Password feature	January 1, 2006 December 31, 2006
05-010	Twelve (12) Servers according to the following Specifications Hardware • Brand New Server • Branded Server With Dual Processor • Intel Xeon 3 06 Ghz (Hyper-Threading) • 512 KB L2 Cache • 2 GB ECC RAM • 1.44 MB Floppy Disk Drive • 48X CD-ROm Drive • 2 x 72 GB SCSI Hard Disk Drive (Hot plug and RAID 1 Configured) • Integrated ATI Rage XL Video Controller With 64 MB RAM or its equivalent • Hot Plug Redundant Power Supply • 2 X 10/100 T/X Network Interface Card or its equivalent • 15" SVGA Color Monitor • Keyboard • Optical Mouse • Uninterruptible Power Supply (1.5 KVA) Sofware • Five (5) MS SQL Server 200 Standard Edition English MVL or MOLP (Microsoft Open License Program) • One (1) MS SQL Server Standard Edition 2000 English Media Kit	January 1, 2006 - December 31, 2006
05-011	1. Residual mist spraying with highly residual chemicals in breeding places, crevices, cracks, double walls, drainage areas, and other places that will effectively exterminate cockroaches, mosquitoes, flies, bugs, fleas, silverfishes, and crawling insects. 2. Application of rodenticides in breeding places, rat burrows and passageway. Provision of continuous supplies of raticides or rodenticides shall be applied at areas for treatment. Rat baits shall be located at chosen areas but must be carefully placed in order to avoid unnecessary exposure in the premises. 3. Outdoor and NOB basement fogging shall be done to exterminate mosquitoes and flies. Larvaecides, pesticides of oil - based chemicals shall be applied at areas within the premises to eradicate breeding places and infestation of mosquitoes and flies 4. Application of termicides on wooden portion of the structure to correct/prevent termite infestation. Application shall be performed by injection, drenching and/or gel baiting methods at cement and wooden crevices, cracks and other areas considered as termite entrance points and other areas where signs of termite infestation are present including demolition of termite mounds and necessary treatment	January 1, 2006- December 31, 2006

3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of RA 9184, otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to RA 5183 and subject to Commonwealth Act 138. Only bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from BAC Secretariat, thru the Chief Procurement Division at the address given below from 8.00 AM-5.00 PM starting November 21, 2005.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon cash payment to the BIR Cashier of a non-refundable fee in the amount stated above.
6. The Bureau of Internal Revenue will hold a Pre-bid Conference open to all interested parties at the *3/F Executive Conference Room, BIR-NOB, Diliman, Quezon City* on

PUBLIC BIDDING NO.	PRE-BID CONFERENCE	TIME
05-008	December 2, 2005	9:00 AM
05-009	December 2, 2005	9:00 AM
05-010	December 2, 2005	1:30 PM
05-011	December 2, 2005	1:30 PM

7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before:

PUBLIC BIDDING NO.	DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF BIDS	TIME
05-008	December 14, 2005	9:00 AM
05-009	December 14, 2005	9:00 AM
05-010	December 14, 2005	1:30 PM
05-011	December 14, 2005	1:30 PM

All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security as stated in Section 22.1 of the Bid Data Sheet. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

8. Bid opening shall be on the following dates at the *3/F Executive Conference Room, Bureau of Internal Revenue, NOB, Diliman, Quezon City.* Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the above address

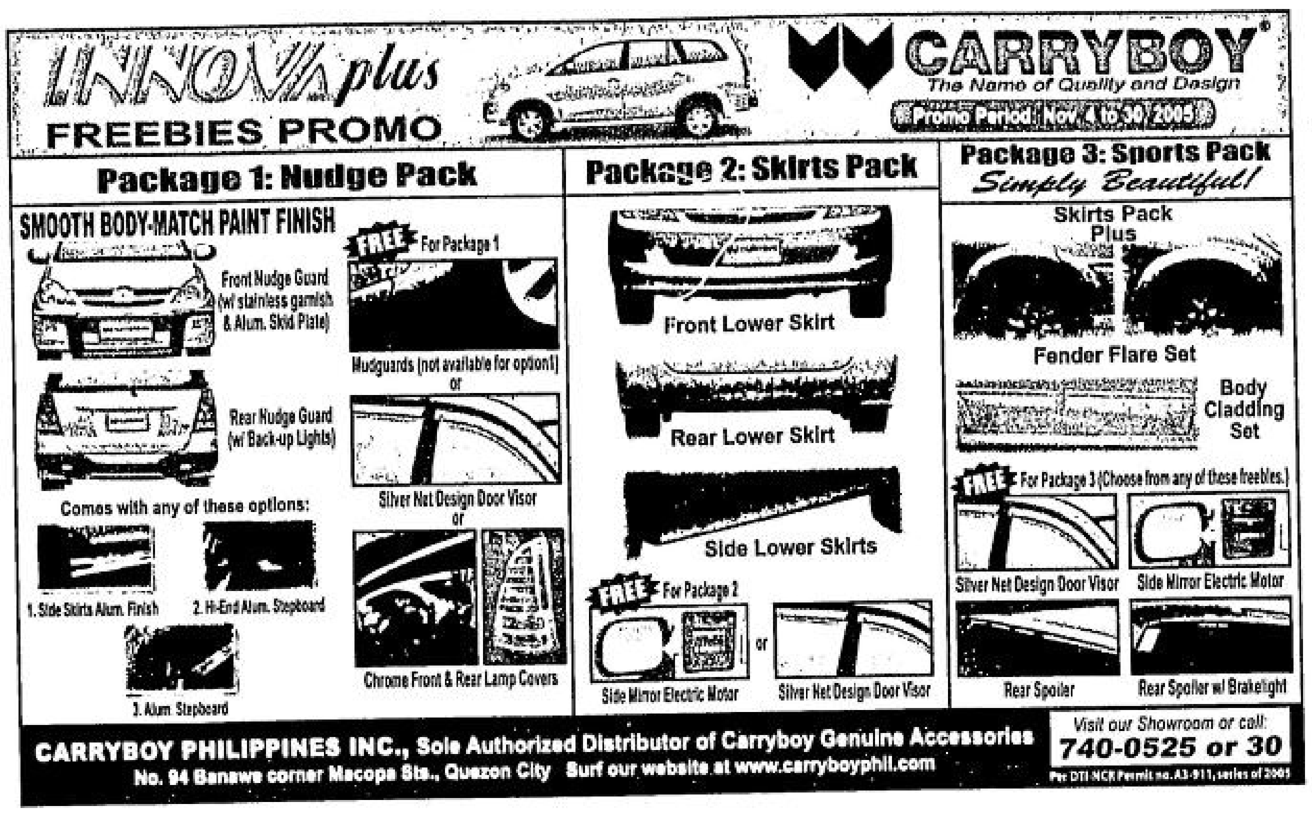
PUBLIC BIDDING NO.	BID OPENING	TIME
05-008	December 14, 2005	9:00 AM
05-009	December 14, 2005	9:00 AM
05-010	December 14, 2005	1:30 PM
05-011	December 14, 2005	1:30 PM

9. The Bureau of Internal Revenue assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid. The BIR also reserves the right to reject any or all bids and accept the bids most advantageous to the government.
10. The Bureau of Internal Revenue reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder/s.

Bureau of Internal Revenue
Atty. James H. Roldan
Assistant Commissioner-Legal Service
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee
Rm 605, 6/F Procurement Division
BIR-NOB, Diliman, Quezon City
Tel No 9265547/Telefax No 9282026
Email Address bac@bir.gov.ph

(Sgd.) JAMES H. ROLDAN
Assistant Commissioner, Legal Service
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI Nov 18 & 25 2005)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SPORTS

BACK TO ROCK: Members of the global streetball phenomenon AND1 Mix Tape Tour on their arrival at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport yesterday. The Philippine stop of the AND1 Mix Tape Tour, featuring the unique marriage of street basketball and hip-hop music, will be held Sunday at the Araneta Coliseum. ROGER MARGALLO

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WORLD CUP

Ongpauco climbs to 4th place

LJUBLJANA, SLOVENIA—THE PHILIPPINES' TYRONE ONGPAUCO continued his steady climb in men's qualifying of the 2005 QubicaAMF Bowling World Cup tournament Wednesday, firing a six-game series of 1321 pinfalls to rank fourth after 18 games at the Gladiator Bowling Center here.

Ongpauco shot a high game of 269 in the third six-game block to raise this total to 3958.

Compatriot Ellen Ramos was not as lucky, however. She lost her touch after a big 1242 in the second six-game block, managed only 1112 Wednesday and fell to 20th place with an 18-game output of 2495.

Both Puyat Sports/Lufthansa-backed Filipinos, though, still have good chances of making the qualifying round cut to 24 in each division after six more games Thursday.

Canada's Michäel Schmidt maintained his frontrunning position with an 18-game total of 4308 for a sizzling average of 239.33 pins.

Last year's runner-up, Norway's Petter Hansen, kept second spot on 4229, followed by Belgium's Gery Verbruggen (4121), Ongpauco, Argentina's Lucas Legnani (3951), Sweden's Anders Ohman (3944) and Venezuela's Arturo Hernandez (3933).

American Lynda Barnes wrested the women's lead from Malaysia's Wendy Chai with an 18-game score of 4284. Chai dropped to second with 4049, followed by Sweden's Helen Johnsson (4021).

All set for Marho Breeders' Cup

CLEAN LIVING
Manolo R. Iñigo

THE ANNUAL MARHO BREEDers' Cup, the country's richest and most popular horse racing event, marks its tenth year on Sunday at the Santa Ana Park, with more than P8 million in prizes up for grabs.

"We are truly proud to stage the tenth renewal of the Marho Breeders' Cup championship series which showcases the best horses of the local breeding industry," said Metropolitan Association of Race Horse Owner's Association president Rep. Benhur Abalos. "This yearly staging of the Marho Breeders' Cup is a fitting tribute to all horse owners and breeders who have supported the program since 1995, as well as to the founding organizers of this event, sportsmen-businessmen Aristeo "Putch" Puyat and Leonardo "Sandy" Javier."

Abalos succeeded Puyat, who stepped down as Marho president after serving for 15 years (seven straight from 1986 to 1992 and eight from 1996 to 2005). "I have served long enough," said Puyat. "It's time for the younger ones to take over."

Again, the Breeders' Cup will be principally supported by long-time sponsor San Miguel Beer and Liveraide Silymarine Capsule, together with the Philippine Racing Commission, Manila Banking Corp., Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office and Philippine Racing Club, Inc.

Six championship races will be on tap Sunday, namely the lung-busting 2,050-meter Classic for older horses, the 1,600-meter Colt Mile for 3-year-olds, the Distaff Mile for 3-year-old fillies, the 1,500-meter Juvenile Colts for 2-year-old colts and geldings, the Juvenile Fillies (also for 1,500 meters) for 2-year-olds and the 900-meter Sprint for Marho Breeders' Cup nominated gallopers only.

Multi-awarded Empire King, owned by David Lee, is the early bettors' pick in the Classic; Golden Fantasy of Lamberto Almeda in the Colt Mile; champion filly Euro Bucks of the powerhouse Hermie Esguerra Stable in the Distaff Mile; rising track sensation Manila's Gem of Raymund Puyat in the Juvenile Colts; and the very promising Juggernaut of Ronaldo Tan in the Juvenile Fillies. But it will be a toss-up in the Sprint among noted speedballs Moab, Stallone and former 3YO Colt winner Free Wind.

The fact that the Marho Breeders' Cup is now on its tenth year is a good sign that it is here to stay. And I am filled with wonder by the grit, zeal and dedication of the members and officials of the association for pushing through with this costly project despite the difficult times. "The industry is making a headway mainly because of the patronage and confidence of the racing public," said Philracom chair Jaime Dilag in an interview at the Santa Ana Turf Room. "We could not have asked for more," added Dilag, who was recently cleared by the Office of the Ombudsman of criminal and administrative charges filed against him and other officials of the Philracom. The robust gross sales expected will not only benefit the horse racing industry in particular but the government as well in the form of taxes.

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Emmie G. Velarde

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- Kuh Ledesma chats with PDI /A3-1

ROGER MARGALLO

Robin Padilla to produce, star in reality docu-drama

By Nikko Dizon

PHILIPPINE CINEMA HAS missed its Bad Boy who's been on a year-long hiatus from show biz.

But Robin Padilla's back from Australia with something bound to send ripples of excitement across the currently dreary film industry.

"Pinoy Mate" is a reality docu-drama that Robin is set to submit as an entry to next year's Cannes Film Festival.

"I hope it gets chosen. More than anything, this is for the Filipino people," a visibly excited Robin told the INQUIRER during an interview upon his arrival Tuesday night at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia) from Australia, where his family is based.

With Robin was his pretty 14-year-old daughter, Queenie and Australian actresses Kelly Atkinson and Ellen Casey, his co-stars in "Pinoy Mate."

Robin is co-producing the documentary with a friend, Rick Pengzon, of Aspen Entertainment, whom he met while he was incarcerated at the New Bilibid Prisons (NBP) in Muntinlupa.

"It's the first of its kind," Rick noted. "That's why Cannes is our target."

"Pinoy Mate" tells of two lovers from very different cultures, according to Robin.

If that sounds a bit run-of-the-mill, here's the surprise: the love story is only a subplot of the docu-drama, whose main focus is the lovers' journeys in their respective homelands, Australia and the Philippines.

In these journeys the two will discover both the beautiful and the ugly. Robin, Kelly, and Ellen will play themselves in the documentary.

Only the love story aspect in the documentary is scripted, Robin stressed. "All the rest will be reality-based."

"The lovers both desire to help their countries," Robin added. "We go by the girl's point of view. Our target is to show the West what the Philippines is like. The main characters tell stories about the country, about the Filipinos that they meet."

Needless to say, Robin wants the documentary to help promote Philippine tourism and generate interest among foreigners—but without glossing over the country's problems.

"I'm not for armed struggle," he said, "but I'm a revolutionary in that I want to help the country."

Robin said he first planned the project last year with the help of a friend, who will now be the cameraman for "Pinoy Mate."

"It took us a while to get Australian actors, primarily because of the travel advisories that the Australian government has been issuing against the Philippines," Robin revealed. "Many backed

ROBIN/ A2-3

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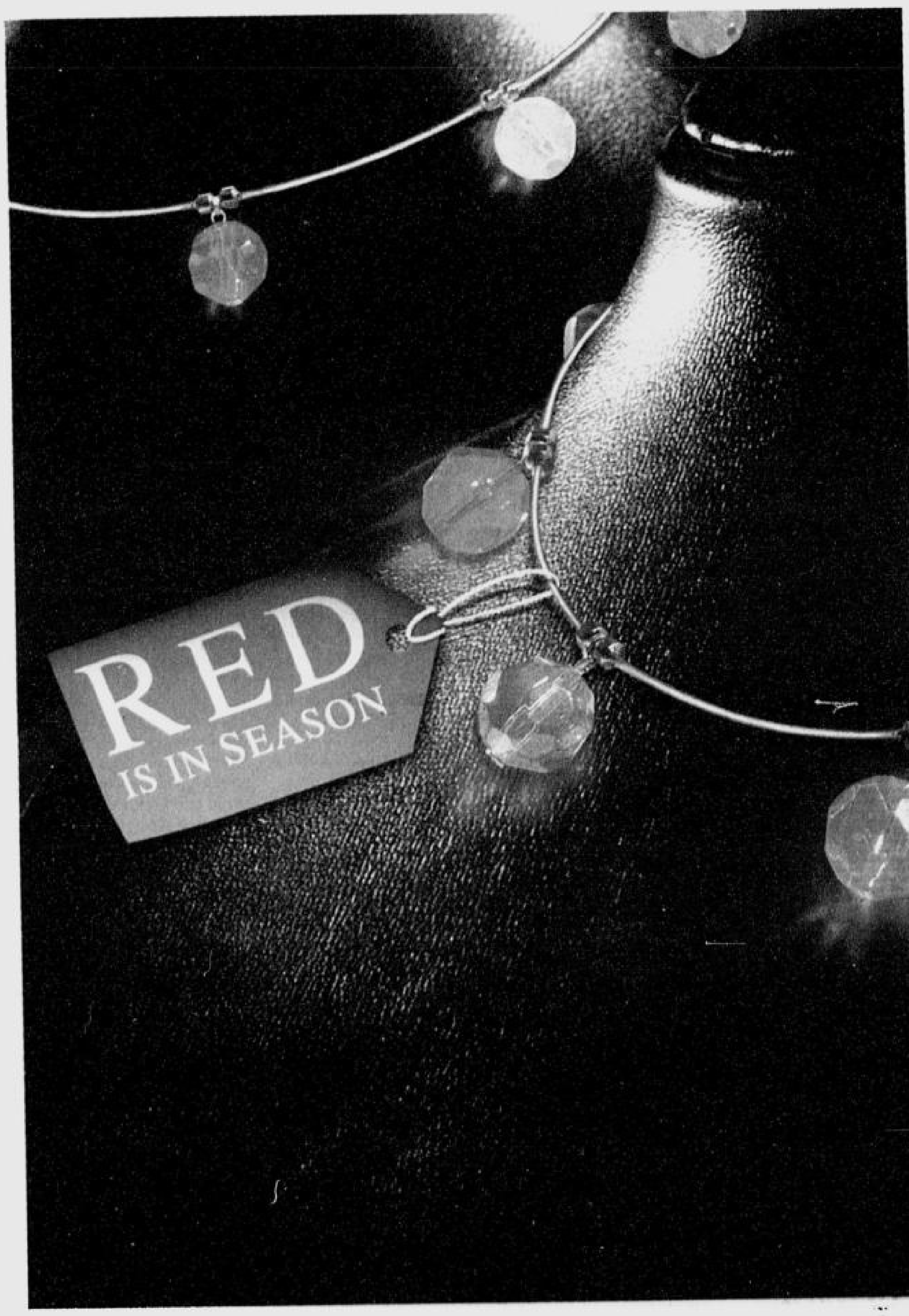

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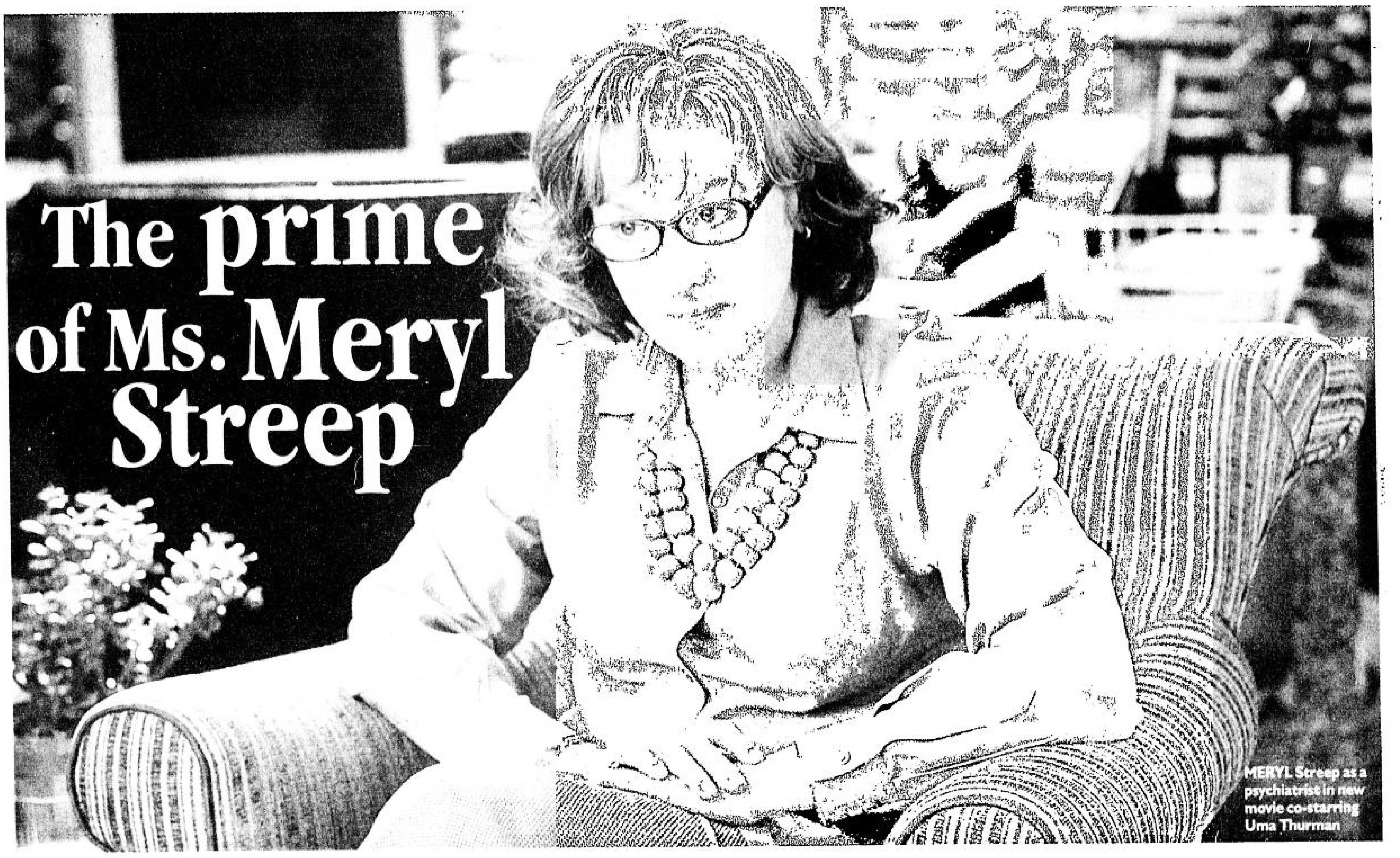
The prime of Ms. Meryl Streep



MERYL Streep as a psychiatrist in new movie co-starring Uma Thurman

LOS ANGELES—IF YOU EVER FIND YOURself talking to **Meryl Streep**, beware—she may be mentally noting your mannerisms. She may use your tics to flesh out a screen character someday.

"I'm looking at everybody here all the time and I guess I do store it up," Meryl Streep admitted, laughing.

Hmmm, imagine being observed by the actress (on the sly, of course). And imagine your body language someday surfacing in yet another award-winning Meryl Streep performance.

While Meryl said on this recent press con, "I felt more confident then because I had the arrogance of youth," she is really at the prime of her acting career. At 56, she is the greatest actress of her generation and certainly one of the finest film, TV and stage thespians ever.

Speaking in that distinctive, melodious voice, Meryl in person was just as expressive with her face, eyes and hands. When the multi-awarded actress complained that her husband, sculptor **Donald J. Gummer**, "was out of town" during their recent wedding anniversary, she mustered a mock look of indignation/hurt/exasperation. It was like having a front row seat to a play starring her.

When I congratulated her on this 27th anniversary and asked if it's a constant struggle to make the marriage last this long (by show biz standards), she looked at me and quipped with a mock growl, "It's a war." The union is apparently solid but Ms. Streep likes to tease her husband.

Meryl stars in "Prime," a charming comedy in which she plays a therapist who encourages her patient, a 37-year-old fashion stylist (**Uma Thurman**), to enjoy a romance with a 23-year-old lover, **Bryan Greenberg**. Uma's divorced, non-practicing Catholic confesses everything about her young boyfriend, including his "beautiful" anatomy, until Meryl's traditional Jewish mother realizes that her patient's paramour is none other than… her son. **Ben Younger**, whose mother is Jewish and a therapist, directs this romantic comedy set in Manhattan.

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Ruben V. Nepales

Smiling, relaxed but an earnest interviewee, Meryl is just as fascinating in our second encounter with her.

You have children who probably bring home their dates. Do you let them know your preferences?

Not really. They're older. They're 26, 22 and 19 and the 14-year-old is too young (to be dating) so I have a breather right now. I don't get a vote on the older ones and the younger ones. I have been lucky. They've chosen friends whom I really like. I think I'd have a heart attack if I had to go through this (like in the movie).

What do you think of the older woman-younger man pairing?

There's still much more of a stigma in that. But if it were reversed, if the girl were 23 and the man were 37 or if the girl were 23 and the man were 47 or if the girl were 23 and the man were 57 (laughter) or if the girl were 23 and the man were 67 (laughter), we would still accept it. If it were a 77-year-old man with a very young woman, maybe we're pushing it. I just think that love is hard to find and when you find it, you're lucky.

It's refreshing to hear you say in a magazine interview that doing comedy is actually easier than drama.

Yeah, it's a very little secret (laughter). It's easier. **Kathy Bates** said, I don't have to put my tits in the wringer (laughter). I don't wear it more heavily at the end of the day. It's just more fun to go home when the whole crew laughed at you all day. It feels good. But it is hard when the comedy isn't working. The thing about this script is, the humor isn't in the jokes. There aren't a lot of little taglines. It has to do with situation and character. What makes it funny is the humanity of the people and just seeing them in the situations that the director and screenwriters have devised. So that's what's funny—the characters.

How would you describe somebody who is in his prime?

Prime is the state when you are happy and you feel that things are going well for you. That can really happen at any age. It can happen when you're 8 and I've known people in their 80s who are that way and so I don't think it's defined by a certain age.

How about you? Do you feel you are in your prime?

I feel pretty happy. I feel a little beleaguered by all the things that I have to do but that's a function of how I've always felt (laughing). I've always felt that way since I started getting homework when I was a kid. I'm a very big daydreamer. I just like to have days sort of open up and I don't have to be anywhere. That hasn't happened in a long time.

What kind of religious or spiritual education did you give to your children? And what advice did you give them about marriage and family, especially in these times when more people seem to be divorcing?

To answer your second question first, people are diverted by thinking that just because there are so many divorces now, that's evidence of society falling apart. All that has really changed is that people now have a way out. People used to stay in marriages where they were being beaten up or somebody was a complete drunk or hitting the kids. People would stay in those marriages in the old days. As for the first question, I exposed the kids to different religions. I don't follow one discipline or attend one institutional setting.

Do you think that marriage is still a valuable institution?

Yes, I do. I just had my 27th anniversary yesterday and he (her husband) was out of town (laughter). It was sort of a problem but yes, I do believe in marriage. It has worked fairly well. We have a big family. I don't know how people would do that by themselves. Crazy.

Twenty years ago, what kind of movies did you want to be in?

I can't even remember the movies I have made (laughter). I am not that greedy at this point.

Uma told us that she was very nervous the night before she was going to work with you. Do you ever get nervous meeting somebody whom you revere and how do you overcome that nervousness?

Oh yes, I get nervous all the time. I get nervous at the parent-teacher conferences (laughter). I get nervous when I have to go meet the Mayor of New York. I am always nervous basically but that's a valuable thing. By the way, actresses like to be nervous. Uma liked being nervous to work with me because it helped her in that first scene. She's supposed to be overwrought and nuts and sometimes we use our precarious emotional lives to advantage. Otherwise you would not be actors. It's good that we're actresses and that we get nervous and uncertain. It's a very good thing and useful in our work.

Bryan described you as being so supportive and your generosity is legendary. But I remember when you were very much younger and you were combative with directors.

Oh, you're terrifying me. I was maybe bossy with directors but only on my own behalf of what I felt was true for the script or something and never with other actors. With directors, I am still argumentative. It's my nature and the way we conduct our family—if you have a point of view, nobody is going to care if you don't express it. Nobody is going to know what it is so you have a responsibility to express yourself. I don't hate it when people tell me things. I like it. I like the exchange. Otherwise, what are you doing here?

When you walk on the street, do you observe the behavior of people and store it in your memory?

Yes, I do. I never stop looking at everybody, secretly. I'm looking at everybody here (laughing) all the time and I guess I do store it up. I find people very interesting. It's an unconscious kind of observation. I don't want to know about how it works. If I know how it works, I'll become self-conscious and I don't want to do that. I'm fortunately forgetting everything all the time so (laughing) that helps me as an actor. I don't know where I pick things up.

Do you sometimes feel that you have been applauded or celebrated for a performance that you yourself are not satisfied with and that it has gotten to the point where Meryl Streep can do no wrong?

There are different predators lying in wait for my performance, not other peoples' performances. Maybe I have more tools now to understand how to approach a part than I did when I was 27 but I felt more confident then because I had the arrogance of youth and all that stuff. Is there one performance that I felt was praised and I don't think it was deserved? Every single one of my performances (laughing). There are things I would change in them. I hope no one notices (laughing). I don't have one that I despise.

Are you surprised that your acting career has lasted this long?

People get sick of you. It's a long career. It's like 30 years. People go, ugh, her again and I understand that. But it's now about the work of acting and to see how far, how deep and how rich this stew can be. I am always surprised that they still give me work. I'm really surprised because there's not a lot of older women working so I'm happy when these scripts come along.

How do you make your fellow actors relax when they are acting alongside you?

They feel nervous the day before but then they come in—they're not so nervous after they meet me. I am not doing anything in particular special to make them not nervous. I'm aware of it but it's just like oh, after you work in the morning and go through the thing, it's just listening really—talking, feeling and being available in the moment. I remember I was so nervous to work with **Robert De Niro** and then I came away after the first day of work and somebody said God, what was it like? And I said it was easy. When the actor is really good, it's easy because they're not fighting you or struggling. They're just sitting in the chair with you and it's an exchange, you know.

(E-mail the columnist at rvnepales_5585@yahoo.com.)

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4 pm : **Five Feminist Minutes** *(Canada)*
7 pm : **A Little Color** *(Switzerland)*
9:30 pm : **Phir Milenge** *(India)*

Nov. 25 (Friday, Filipino Day!)
1 pm : **Ang Tanging Ina**
4 pm : **Minsa'y Isang Gamu-Gamo**
7 pm : **Bata, Bata, Paano Ka Ginawa?**
9:30 pm : **Moral**

Nov. 26 (Saturday)
1 pm : **She Says: Women in News** *(US)*
4 pm : **A Little Color** *(Switzerland)*
7 pm : **Te Doy Mis Ojos** *(Spain)*
9:30 pm : **The Road Home** *(China)*

Nov 27 (Sunday)
1 pm : **Five Feminist Minutes** *(Canada)*
4 pm : **Say I Do** *(Canada/Philippines)* & **Ynang Bayan** *(Philippines)*
7 pm : **Baran** *(Iran)*
9:30 pm : **Iron Jawed Angels** *(US) (HBO)*

Nov 28 (Monday)
1 pm : **Dahil Mahal Kita** *(Philippines)*
4 pm : **Manthan** *(India)*
7 pm : **Frida** *(Mexico)*
9:30 pm : **Anak** *(Philippines)*

Nov 29(Tuesday)
1 pm : **Tumaini** *(Tanzania)*
4 pm : **Baran** *(Iran)*
7 pm : **The Road Home** *(China)*
9:30 pm : **She Says: Women in News** *(US)*

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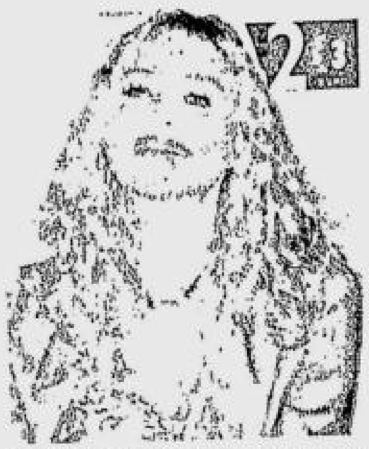

STONE initiates free surgery for kids with facial deformities.

LOS ANGELES—ACTRESS SHARON Stone has agreed to drop her lawsuit against a plastic surgeon she accused of libel in return for his performing free surgery for children with facial deformities, the doctor's lawyer said on Tuesday.

The settlement became final when Stone filed papers in Los Angeles County Superior Court dismissing her complaint against Dr. Renato Calabria, whom she accused of making false claims that she had a face-lift, his attorney, Arthur Barens said.

Stone's lawyer could not immediately be reached for comment.

In exchange for dismissal of Stone's complaint, the Beverly Hills physician agreed to provide his services on a pro bono basis for a charity the actress is involved in that arranges reconstructive facial surgery for children, Barens said.

"I think Ms. Stone did the honorable thing, and I think that Dr. Calabria did an honorable thing, too," said another of the surgeon's lawyers, Kevin Leichter. "(Calabria) managed to turn a lawsuit into a benefit to the community."

The 47-year-old "Basic Instinct" star sued the doctor for defamation and libel in December 2004, charging he had falsely claimed to have given the actress a face-lift.

Barens has said his client never represented to anyone that he had performed cosmetic surgery on Stone. "All he has ever done is discuss vertical face surgery, a technique he innovated, and articles have speculated that Stone had the procedure," Barens said last year.

The case stemmed from an Us Weekly magazine article headlined "Did Sharon Stone Have Surgery?" and a similar piece published by In Touch magazine quoting Calabria.

According to her lawsuit, which sought unspecified damages, Stone "has never undergone a face-lift in order to improve her physical appearance. ... Stone prides herself not only on her acting ability and other talents, but also on her natural physical appearance." *Reuters*

ELLEN, Queenie, Robin and Kelly upon arrival at the NAIA. ROGER MARGALLO

Robin . . .

From page A2-1

out after initially saying yes. We would be preparing to leave for Manila and then a travel advisory would be issued, saying the Philippines is a dangerous place for Australians. So I admire these two ladies (Atkinson and Casey). They're really okay!"

Passion

Kelly, 23, said, "It's really great for us to be part of it, especially considering it's basically Robin's brainchild. He's written it, he's conceptualized it. Whenever you work with someone that's so passionate about something, it's always lovely. You feed off their passion."

Ellen, 22, a singer/stage actress in Australia, shrugged off the travel advisories and said she was eager to see the Philippine's wildlife and coastlines.

"They do that (issue travel advisories about) a lot of countries," Ellen noted. "You can't live in fear, you just can't. The whole world's in a delicate stage right now. There's danger anywhere. Fear lies in fear itself."

It is the first visit to the Philippines for both Aussie stars.

"I have to say that I was pretty ignorant [about the Philippines] until now. But it seems like a beautiful country. I'm sure we're going to know it very intimately in the next couple of weeks," Kelly said.

The group began filming in Queensland before proceeding here in Manila to shoot the Philippine portions of the "journey."

First stop is Muntinlupa.

"That's where my awareness of the problems of most Filipinos started," explained Robin, who served time (three years) for illegal possession of firearms and ammunition. He received a Presidential (Fidel V. Ramos) pardon in 1998.

From there, the team will go around Luzon, then Visayas and Mindanao.

They hope to finish shooting first week of December. Then they will take a week off before starting to film again in Australia.

Own money

Robin and Rick said they expected to spend on the project some AU$200,000 (about US$146,000) out of their own pockets.

The two-hour long docu-drama would be shot with a digital camera, Robin said, but in 24 frames so it could easily be blown up to film.

Making a killing in the box office is the least of Robin's goals for "Pinoy Mate."

"Rick and I just want as many Filipinos as possible to see it," Robin said, "and find some reason to hope for bright future for the country."

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Cass volunteered herself for eviction

CASS Ponti and Franzen Macaraeg (inset)

By Nini Valera

IN A HEROIC MOVE TO PREVENT THE automatic eviction of incorrigible "Pinoy Big Brother" housemate Franzen Macaraeg for breaking a rule, housemate Cass Ponti offered herself up for eviction instead, according to PBB director and business unit manager Lauren Dyogi.

Dyogi made the announcement during a press conference on Wednesday.

He said Franzen was caught on video silently mouthing words to housemate Cass, a violation of the provision that all housemates have to speak loud and clear for the viewers to understand what is transpiring among them.

After viewing the tape of this incident, Endemol, the Holland-based company that owns the franchise of "Big Brother," asked Big Brother Philippines to evict Franzen, Dyogi said.

It was not the first time that Franzen was caught breaking house rules. He had done it so often—defying the five-minute limit in the bathroom, for example—that he had been nominated for eviction at least three times for eviction. But he has always been saved by the voting public.

Sacrifice honored

"So Franzen is already evicted," Dyogi stressed. "But Cass volunteered to take his place, and we honor sacrifice. So we're presenting the issue to the public and making the public decide who should stay or leave the house."

This surreal twist in the reality-based TV saga has given PBB a new spin, and ABS-CBN an opportunity to size up the market's psychographics.

"The result of the voting would give us an indication of how our viewers think," Dyogi said.

A vote for Cass would mean a vote for what is right and fair, since Franzen did break a rule. But a vote for Franzen would also reveal that many Pinoys are willing to tolerate minor infractions committed by an underdog.

(As we went to press, PBB announced that voting had been called off, Franzen had been evicted and Cass' request was denied.—Ed)

Last Saturday, Jenny Suico was evicted from the PBB house after garnering only four percent of the text votes.

"I was hoping to stay on," she admitted during a press conference last Monday. "But I was expecting to be evicted. Say and Cass nominated me because they felt it was unfair that I should return."

The 29-year-old voluntarily left the PBB house last Sept. 17 to visit her ailing father Ferdinand Nombrado, who died a few days later.

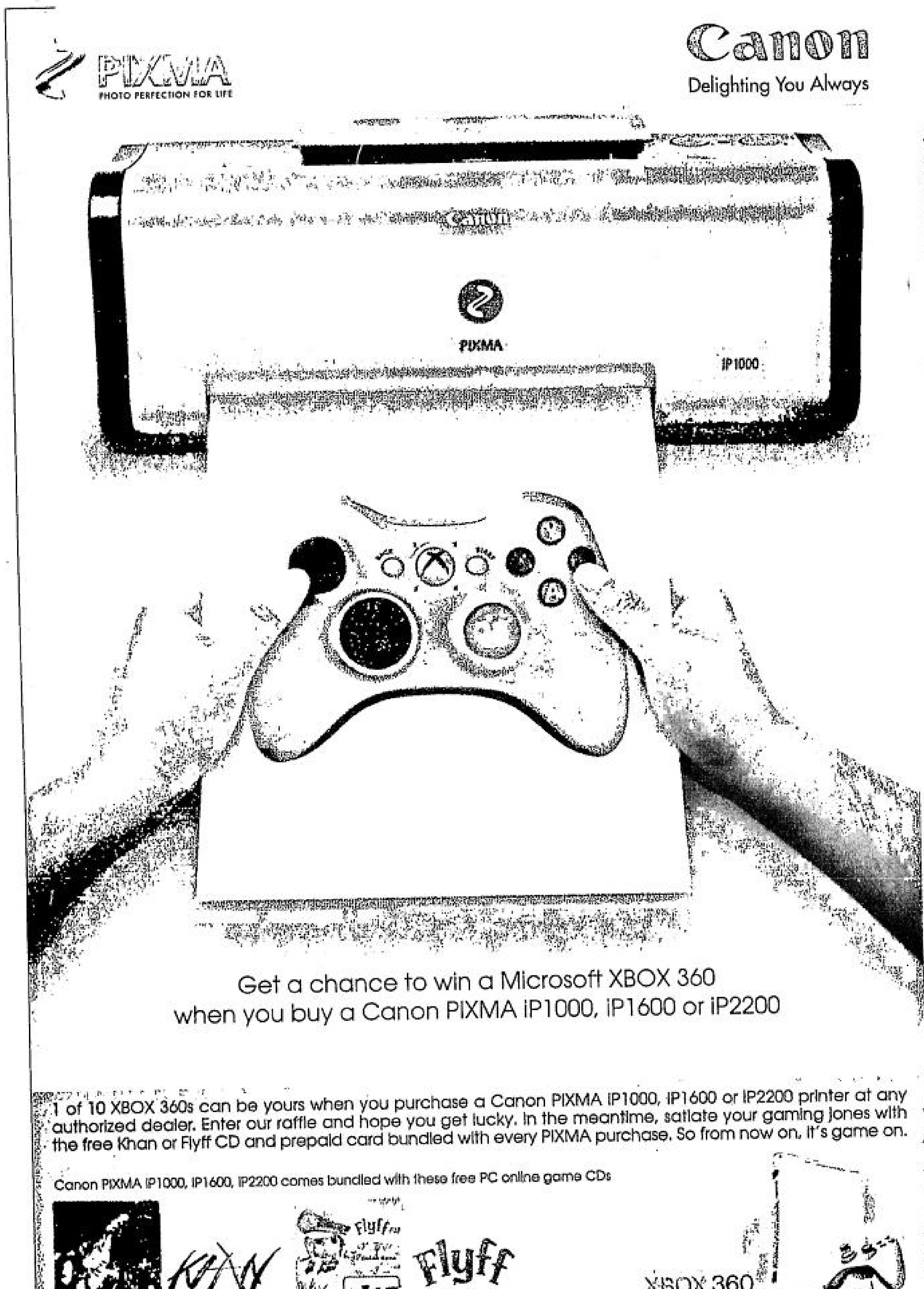
No regrets

"I do not regret anything," Jenny said in Filipino, referring to her eviction. "I have learned so many things...the value of getting along well with others...all my experiences inside the house. I am happy for this chance to be part of PBB."

Jenny returned on Oct. 15 after housemate Bob was forcibly evicted for health reasons.

Now that it's over for her, Jenny is bent on pursuing a show biz career.

"I've always dreamed of becoming an actress since I was a little girl," she confessed. "Given the chance, I would like to pursue that dream now."



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New kiddie singing tilt starts telecasting

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

ABS-CBN KIDDIE SINGING TILT, "LITTLE BIG Star," is becoming more popular, so it's perfectly understandable why QTV 11 has trotted out a similar contest for young singers. We caught the first telecast of "Pop Star Kids" last Sunday night, and found its format simpler than ABS-CBN's original show.

Only three young vocalists competed in a single category, so they were given more time to sing. The contestants, **Sarrah**, **Bryan** and **Rita**, were all good, but we agreed with the judges that Rita was the best.

Unfortunately, all three singers chose songs with lyrics that were too adult for them. The contestants were quite young, but they had to articulate and "feel" grown-up lyrics like—

"Love moves in mysterious ways… I'll love you for the rest of my life!"

"Nagmamahal ka sa akin nang tunay."

"Narito ang pag-ibig ko, ibibigay ko nang buong-buo."

When *will* parents and singing mentors realize that child singing tilts are for *children*, who should sing, not about romantic love, heartaches, and other emotional upheavals, but about themes and subject matter closer to their young age group's interests?

A judge last Sunday did start to point this out, but he got stuck on the "since you're too young, you weren't able to properly interpret and feel this song" level, and failed to move on.

It would have been more relevant for him to point out that the kid shouldn't have chosen to sing that romantic song in the first place, and should have opted for a more age—and sensibility—appropriate number, instead.

Another problem was host **Kyla**'s too avid emulation of **Regine Velasquez**. She should have tried to come across more as her own person.

And, when Kyla sang a song during the show, she gave the young contestants a less than wonderful example of what they should aspire to be as performers: she went the predictable "*birit*" and "*plakado*" routes. Kids, *don't* do this at home …

Another negative aspect of the show was its penchant for taking reaction shots of a contestant's parents while the kid was performing. This encouraged some parents to behave in a silly manner, singing their hearts out as though *they* were the contestants. Parents, don't do *this* at home!

But the show had its share of plus points: To its credit, it didn't expose the problems, difficulties and scandals in the young contestants' families' lives, as other shows are wont to do. And it was able to discover a fine singer in its first-week winner, Rita.

Let's just hope that, next week, she chooses to sing a song that's fit for *children*. No romantic numbers, please!

SAM MILBY

'PBB' grads are here to stay

AT FIRST, we thought that "Pinoy Big Brother" and its after effects would last for only the program's stated life span of 100 days. Now, however, it's becoming clear that the show, or at least its "graduates," intend to be around for a long time to come.

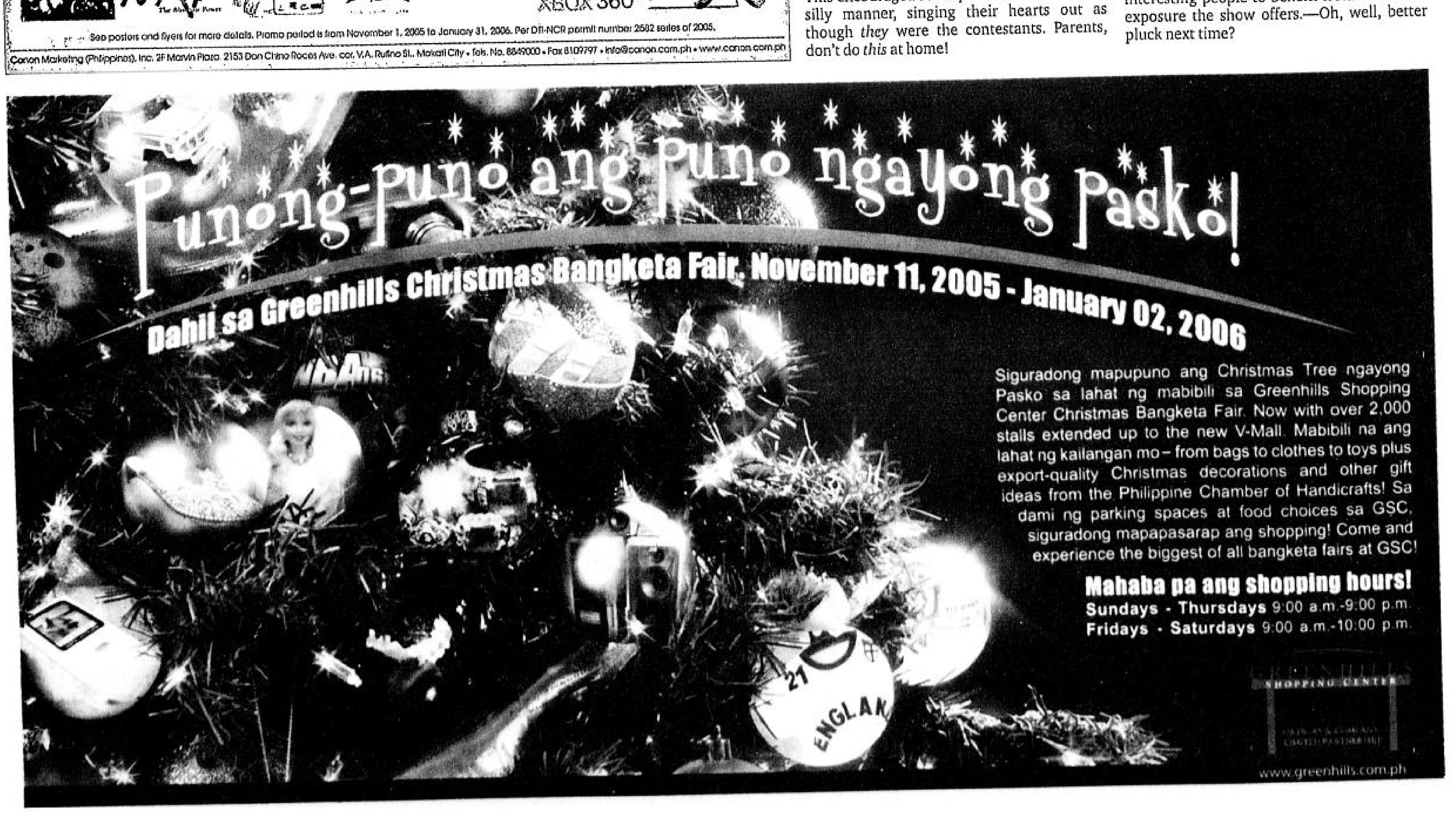
As each "housemate" is evicted, he or she is lionized, made to guest on various ABS-CBN shows, and obviously primed for a career in the biz.

The biggest to-do to date has been over hunky Sam, who is being described as "the next **Piolo Pascual**."—Wonder what Piolo thinks about *that*?!

We wonder if this show biz consequence was part of the local reality show's long-range plans in the first place? Or, was it an afterthought, the result of the housemates' unexpected popularity as a result of the daily exposure they get on the show?

Guess we'll never know for sure, but all this is yet another proof of television's star-making power. The housemates were utter unknowns before the show began telecasting, and now they're celebrities and potential stars in their own right.

ABS-CBN can't be blamed for wanting to reap additional rewards from launching the housemates as performers. But we wish that the network had chosen more talented and interesting people to benefit from all the TV exposure the show offers.—Oh, well, better pluck next time?



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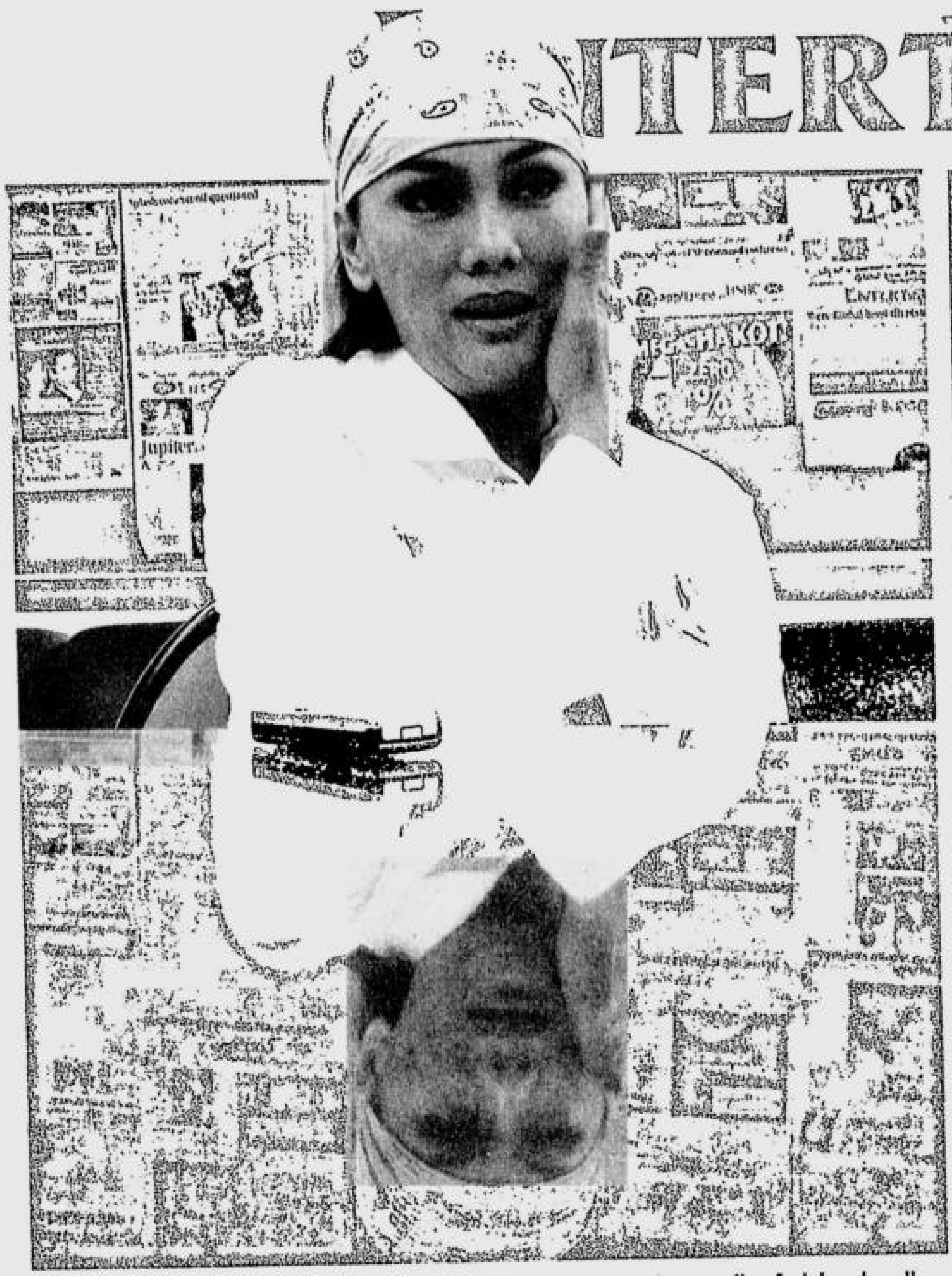

LEDESMA: "The first time I heard 'Dito Ba?' was from the transistor radio of a *labandera*."

RODEL ROTONI

2 faces of Kuh

When did she start being so funny? we ask. 'I've always been funny,' she says

POP DIVA KUH LEDESMA walked into the INQUIRER offices with that air—you know, like royalty who had to be welcomed.

Then she heard someone yelling, "Where is the photographer?" and the bubble burst.

"*Ay, may* picture-taking *ba*?" Kuh whispered. "I'm peeling! See the sides of my nose? I'm peeling!"

No close-ups, she was promised, and she sighed, relieved.

INQUIRER EXCLUSIVE

The atmosphere was set for a candid, spontaneous, occasionally hilarious, exchange.

Tomorrow at the Philippine International Convention Center in Pasay City, Kuh will perform songs that she loves "dearly" in a show called "Paano Kita Mapapasalamatan."

A tribute to the late great songwriter George Canseco, the show will feature other talents who popularized Canseco classics, including Pilita Corales, Zsa Zsa Padilla, Martin Nievera and Dulce. Also performing are young artists Christian Bautista and harpist Noelle Cassandra.

The show will benefit projects of the Philippine Red Cross and a Christian church in Cavite.

Why Canseco?

Most of my songs when I was just starting were by Canseco. I was asked to put up a show at the PICC on Nov. 19, but that didn't push through. I said I'd just do a show on that day for Canseco. Days later, when we called up his son, we learned that Nov. 19 was actually the day he died last year!

What are your memories of Canseco?

He's not strict. But when he was happy with a particular line in a song, no one could change it. It always helped when he was in the studio when we were recording. That was his style—hands on. I think his songs became big hits precisely because he guided his singers.

He was really a great lyricist. I didn't think that "Dito Ba?" was going to be a hit. When I first recorded it, I wasn't too happy. When I heard the finished product, *tapos na* and they refused to remix. If you listen to it closely, my voice is kind of thin *at lubog sa* music.

Would you have done it differently?

Siyempre mas gusto ko lutang ang boses ko. I first heard the recorded song played on the radio of a woman doing her laundry at the back of my apartment in Quezon City. I said to myself, "Wow! It's finally on the radio." I didn't think people really liked listening to it. I just thought I was hearing it because my record label was promoting it.

What were Canseco's traits that you found endearing? What have you learned from him?

It's difficult not to make a hit of a George Canseco song. The lyrics are so powerful, so poetic. He was the only composer I know who could write like that. Canseco's lyrics have harmony, not *pilit*.

Where do you think Canseco gets inspiration for all those songs?

I can only guess. Maybe from all the girls he loved. He loved women (laughs).

And spirits?

I saw Canseco's interview with Cito Beltran [where] he said it was a wrong notion that he could only compose while he was drinking. He actually could not work when he was intoxicated, he said. God is just, you see. He gives gifts and you should not destroy these gifts.

Canseco was the most prolific composer of his time. Being a Christian, I realize that the kind of love songs Canseco had written talked about a relationship that was everlasting. You see, he wrote "Ama," a takeoff from "The Lord's Prayer."

George had a lot of songs that never got published and recorded. *Nag-iba na kasi ang* trends *ngayon*. Nowadays, lyrics are more straight-to-the-point. I think the last recorded Canseco song was "Nasaan Ka Man" by Martin Nievera. This was just before George died.

George had a very good relationship with Vic del Rosario, who is a filmmaker. Vic was able to recognize a great talent and gave it the proper exposure. Many good songwriters never find the right venues to showcase their talents.

So do you plan to record his unpublished work?

I don't know yet. It's always easier to sell "greatest hits" albums, especially these days (laughs).

How does one make sure he/she stays long in show biz?

Hard work. You should also be focused and creative. You should learn to collaborate with the best people around; always research on new things. And, of course, pray a lot.

I went through stages in my career when I had to sing songs that I really didn't like. I've learned from that. Now I just want to do what I feel I would enjoy doing.

When you survey the current scene, do you see a junior Kuh?

I don't know. But I must say that some of the young artists are doing very well. What's important is that an artist knows how to mix art and business. You can't be too dependent on your manager. You also need to know how to market yourself. Do not relinquish your authority. I've learned just recently to never give up my right to decide on the important things in my life.

I must say that I look up to Regine (Velasquez). I think she's also very big. She makes sure to look after her own interest. Gary (Valenciano) is big, too; with an Angeli by his side (laughs). She has helped him a lot. *Magaling mamili ng asawa si* Gary.

How busy is Kuh's love life these days?

Wala, naghihintay pa ako. I only have a love life with the Lord.

You've become something of a comedian lately in your shows. When did you become so funny?

I've always been funny

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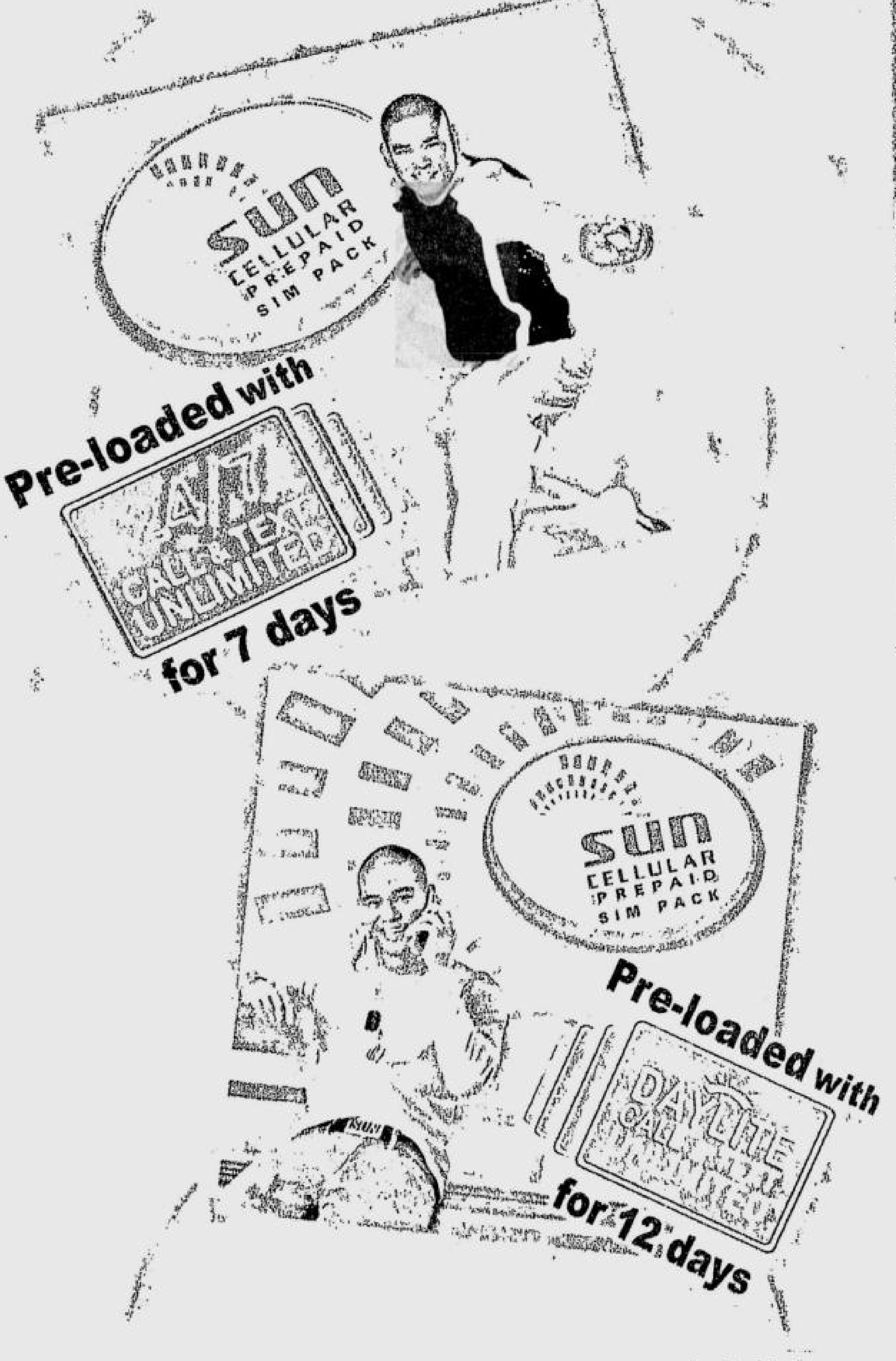

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1 HARRY POTTER 4 • THX
12.00 3:10 6 20 9:30

2 HARRY POTTER 4
12.30 3.40 6.50 10.00

3 FLIGHTPLAN
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9.50

4 HARRY POTTER 4
11:00 2:10 5 20 8 30

5 HARRY POTTER 4
11 30 2 40 5.50 9.00

6 HARRY POTTER 4
1.00 4:10 7:20 10:30

7 ILUSYON
12.00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10.00

8 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO 2
1.25 4:10 6 55 9:40

9 CRY_WOLF
12.40 2:55 5:10 7:25 9:40

10 FOUR BROTHERS
12:20 2:45 5:10 7 35 10:00

ERMITA [illegible]

1 HARRY POTTER 4
11.30 2:40 5:50 9 00

2 DOMINO
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

3 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO 2
12.00 2.30 5 00 7:30 9.50

4 CRY_WOLF
12.00 2:00 4.00 6:00 8:00 10 00

5 FLIGHTPLAN
12.00 2 00 4 00 6:00 8:00 10 00

6 HARRY POTTER 4
12:30 3:45 7 00 10 00

7 HARRY POTTER 4
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METRO EAST [illegible]

1 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO 2
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2 HARRY POTTER 4
12:45 3:55 7:05

3 HARRY POTTER 4
3:55 7:05

4 FLIGHTPLAN
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5 CRY_WOLF
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6 HARRY POTTER 4
3 20 6 30

7 HARRY POTTER 4
12 10 3 20 6 30 9 40

8 FOUR BROTHERS
2.00 4 20 6 40 9.00

NOVALICHES [illegible]

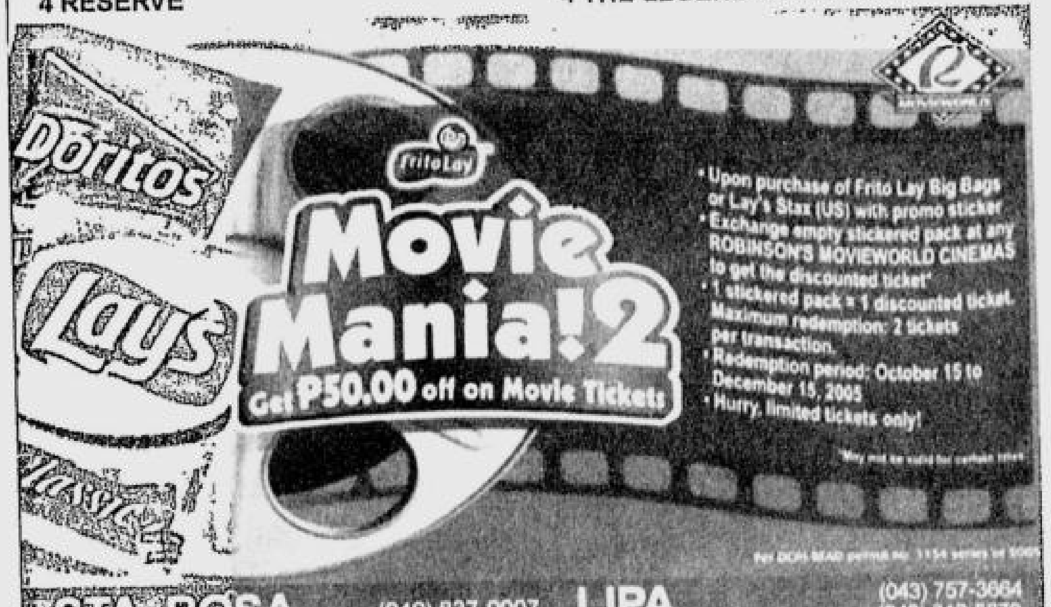
1 HARRY POTTER 4
2 HARRY POTTER 4
3 ILUSYON
4 HARRY POTTER 4
5 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO 2
6 FLIGHTPLAN

CITISQUARE MALABON [illegible]

1 HARRY POTTER 4
2 HARRY POTTER 4
3 RESERVE
4 RESERVE

PIONEER [illegible]

1 HARRY POTTER 4
2 HARRY POTTER 4
3 FLIGHTPLAN
4 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO 2



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3 WAITING
4 FLIGHTPLAN

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1 HARRY POTTER 4
2 HARRY POTTER 4
3 FLIGHTPLAN
4 WAITING

DASMARINAS [illegible]

1 HARRY POTTER 4
2 ILUSYON
3 HARRY POTTER 4
4 FLIGHTPLAN

ANGELES [illegible]

1 HARRY POTTER 4
2 HARRY POTTER 4
3 WAITING
4 FLIGHTPLAN

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1 HARRY POTTER 4
2 FLIGHTPLAN
3 HARRY POTTER 4
4 DOOM
5 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO 2
6 AB-NORMAL BEAUTY

ILOILO [illegible]

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2 WAITING
3 FLIGHTPLAN
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	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
G1 GLORIETTA 1	FLIGHTPLAN	HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE	LEGEND OF ZORRO	HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE			
G4 GLORIETTA 4	HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE	HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE	THX HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE GUARANTEED SEATS	LEGEND OF ZORRO	HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE	HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE	FLIGHTPLAN
GB1 GREENBELT 1	FLIGHTPLAN	HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE					
GB3 GREENBELT 3	THX HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE GUARANTEED SEATS	THX HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE GUARANTEED SEATS	FLIGHTPLAN GUARANTEED SEATS	HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE GUARANTEED SEATS	HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE GUARANTEED SEATS		
ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	THX HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE	HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE	HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE	LEGEND OF ZORRO	FLIGHTPLAN		
ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU	HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE	HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE	HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE	FLIGHTPLAN			

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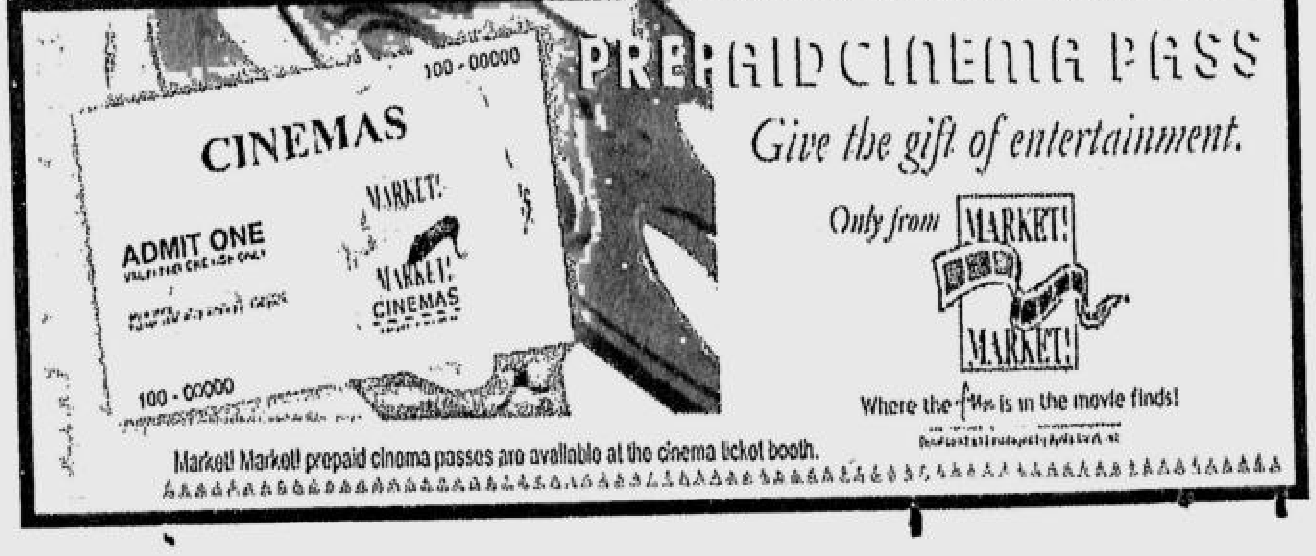
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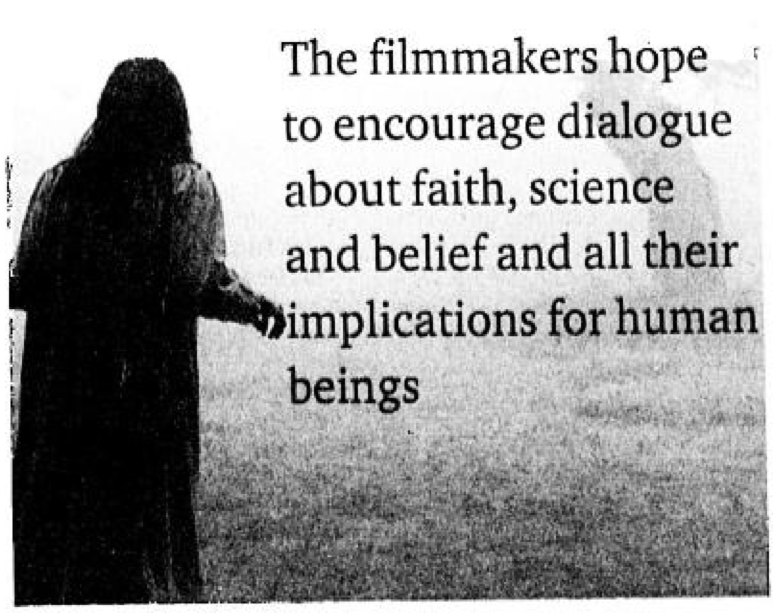
'Emily Rose' takes possession of theaters

By Alexis L. Loinaz
Contributor



The filmmakers hope to encourage dialogue about faith, science and belief and all their implications for human beings

EXORCISM. THE word evokes such potent cinematic references that anyone would be hard-pressed to cast out the searing imagery of "The Exorcist"—green projectile vomit, a ghastly Linda Blair, a bloody crucifix, spinning heads.

So it takes a fair amount of courage—hubris, really—to put the word "exorcism" in the title of your new movie, knowing full well what people will expect. "The Exorcism of Emily Rose" does just that, but it's ready to turn expectations on their, well, head.

INQUIRER EXCLUSIVE

The film is ambitious in that it attempts to mesh two different genres: the classic horror movie (yes, think "The Exorcist") and the classic courtroom drama (think "A Few Good Men").

By combining the two, the film hopes to create tension between faith and fact, religion and reason, the spiritual and the sensible. Did something supernatural really happen? Or was there a pragmatic, logical explanation for it all?

The premise of "Emily Rose" is straightforward. A Catholic priest is put on trial for negligent homicide after the title character, an unassuming, God-fearing college student, dies under his care while he performed a series of exorcism rituals.

Full scream

Emily Rose, played with full screaming gusto by Jennifer Carpenter, believes she's been possessed by demons after she experiences episodes of otherworldly terror while away for college. A mysterious force pins her down in bed; frightful apparitions start.

Concerned, her Catholic-centric family sends for her to come home, where she's put under the care of Father Moore—the esteemed British actor Tom Wilkinson fills the role—who then tries to cast out the demons.

When Emily Rose dies and Father Moore is charged, his case is taken on by a skeptical atheist lawyer, whose doubts aren't quelled by key medical revelations about Emily Rose. For instance, that she might have actually have been epileptic. That she could have suffered from mania or neurosis. That the priest's religious approach to her condition could have fatally interfered with any medical treatment that she needed.

The film grossed a surprising $30 million in its opening weekend, far surpassing expectations.

"What interested us was that we hadn't seen it done before—we'd seen courtroom thrillers, but not courtroom horror," says writer-director Scott Derrickson during a conversation with INQUIRER Entertainment in New York City. "We thought it would be a challenge to blend those two genres."

This unusual approach initially caused some trepidation among the cast, including two-time Oscar nominee Laura Linney, who plays the priest's lawyer.

"Of course I was nervous about that—absolutely," she says. "I think everybody was. It's risky when you do a courtroom drama because they can be boring, boring, boring. And it's risky when you do something that deals with the supernatural, because it can just be stupid."

Focused

Linney radiates a focused intelligence when she speaks, and she tends to weigh her answers carefully, thoughtfully, conscientiously. Dressed unassumingly in a gray V-neck sweater, pinstriped trousers and comfy white sneakers, she comes across more like a drama-school teacher than an actor.

For "Emily Rose," Linney's challenge was to find a way to marry its legal and supernatural elements. "I was responsible for knitting those two genres together. Tom Wilkinson and I were both responsible for the navigation of trying to make this a cohesive whole. So I was very aware of the architecture of the piece."

Derrickson and his co-writer/producer, Paul Harris Boardman, based the movie on a true story that they say happened in Germany in the 1970s. Although many aspects of the original story changed on the way to the big screen (the film is now set in a rural Pennsylvania-ish town), they did immerse themselves in the research required of the story.

Derrickson read about two dozen books on possession, and both men watched videotapes of purported exorcisms. What they discovered was chilling.

Boardman says, "Whether you believe the exorcism or not, what we found interesting was how scary those 'real' exorcisms were, [and] to talk to people who deal with the mentally ill and see things that they just find impossible to believe."

Jennifer Carpenter approached her research from a medical perspective. "I did a lot of research on seizures and epilepsy," she says. "Some of the physicalities that I saw there, I'd never seen before."

Derrickson actually discouraged Carpenter from watching the original "Exorcist," which she hadn't yet seen. He was concerned that the film would influence her performance and thus detract from a more truthful exploration of her character.

"I did not want her to look at outside sources but to try to come up with an internal justification for how she moved, for how she behaved," he says.

Carpenter recalls: "Scott said, 'Think of all the cliches that you can think of when you hear the words 'horror film,' and move as far away from them as possible.'"

Performance-based

To get the performance they wanted, Derrickson, Carpenter and the producers eschewed as much special effects as they could, choosing instead to have the actress do many of her own mind-boggling body contortions in the film, as well as develop her own idiosyncratic vocal inflections.

"Fundamentally, it relies on a performance, on Jennifer Carpenter and her ability to portray something that is inhuman and otherwordly and disturbing—or at the very least crazy," Derrickson says.

That isn't to say a fair amount of makeup and visual effects weren't used. Technicians took molds of Carpenter's body and used them to create the freakishly contorted dummies that were used in some of the more horrific scenes.

In fact, in a wicked ode to "The Exorcist," Carpenter even gave her father a special gift after the shoot wrapped: a mold of her head, taken from one of the dummies they made of her.

He burst into tears.

"It was equally hard mentally as it was physically," she says. "It's worth being in pain just to tell the story truthfully."

Linney was more concerned with the subtleties of her role, since her performance was to be the modulated foil to the story's flashier moments.

"You have to calibrate performances so that they are credible, so that they are subtle," she points out. "I do tend to work on a deep level with certain stuff, and I believe less is more. But that also means that you really have to trust that things will bleed through—even the most subtle, tiny things that will accumulate over the watching of a movie."

Equally tricky was the legal jargon that the cast had to get accustomed to. Linney and her courtroom costars quickly realized that mastering it required a fair amount of prayer, and faith, on their part.

Tough talk

"It's not English," she says, dumbfounded. "It doesn't connect to you as a human being. It's very hard to make that language sound human—you couldn't get it out of your mouth!"

Ultimately, the cast and filmmakers hope to encourage dialogue about faith, science and belief and all their implications for human beings, whether one is a believer or a skeptic. After all, in a religious milieu characterized by a new Pope, sexual-abuse scandals in US parishes, and lingering questions about the relevance of the Catholic church in a rapidly evolving world, there is certainly much to ponder.

"Given that we're in a time where there's a lot of fervor about religion, I wanted to make sure that this movie did not have an agenda," Linney stresses. "That was important to me."

Carpenter agrees. "The best part about this movie is, it's not saying there's a right way to live, a safe way to live, a proper way to believe. But it made me ask a lot of the questions I was probably avoiding without realizing I was."

Derrickson is simply pleased that his screenplay has found its way to the screen. "To deal with this kind of subject matter—religion, spirituality, faith and belief—and to do it in the US and to have it become a political subject, is an accomplishment in itself," he says.

Misfortune

He adds: "I think it's unfortunate that religion, even more than politics, is either off the table for discussion or, if it goes on the table, people become so quickly polarized and so quickly intolerant. There has to be more public thought about these issues, and pushing people toward an answer is not our interest. But keeping those questions on the table definitely is, because they're important, regardless of what the answers are."

(E-mail the author at alexisloinaz@gmail.com.)

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6:30 PM	GOLDEN BOWL
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A singer who just happens to be funny

By Jocelyn Valle
Contributor

SINGER-COMEDIENNE K BROSAS didn't only win a few thousand pesos when she recently topped a game portion on "Eat... Bulaga!" as a celebrity contestant; she was also able to renew ties with one of the noontime show's hosts, Gladys Guevarra.

"It served as an icebreaker because we hadn't seen each other in a while," K told INQUIRER Entertainment. "People assume that we're not in good terms just because they don't see us together. Whenever there's a bad write-up about us, she sends me a text message and I text her back. I admit, though, that we're not very close."

In 2000, the two comedians started working together as members of the comedy-musical group, Gladys and the Boxers with K, which was renamed K and the Boxers when Gladys quit in 2003. Though Gladys cited personal reasons for her departure, tongues continued to wag about her supposed rift with K.

After performing together recently in a production number on "SOP," K said people seemed to finally believe they're okay. "We even get offers to do back-to-back shows."

K takes the limelight solo in a concert tonight at the Music Museum but guess who's giving her a big boost of confidence? Gladys has bought 10 tickets and promotes the gig on "Eat... Bulaga!" according to the star of "K Bro… Alive."

The other members of Boxers—Daniel Larrazabal, Cris Samonte and Shanna Hife—are just as supportive, said K. They will join her in a couple of numbers. Other guest performers are Rufa Mae Quinto, Kyla, Erik Santos and Keanna Reeves.

"My goal is to show that I'm first and foremost a singer who just happens to be funny, too," K explained. "I'll do a variety of songs including rock and rap. I also wrote the script with the help of director Floy Quintos."

K BROSAS

SHOW TIME

Pete Lacaba retrospective

MULTI-AWARDED poet, screenwriter, journalist and translator Jose F. Lacaba is the first featured poet of NewsDesk Chronicles, a series of cocktail and after-dinner shows that celebrate the works of the country's top artists and personalities in the literary, entertainment, performing arts and political fields.

Conceptualized and produced by Butterflyeffect Inc. in cooperation with NewsDesk Café and Datelines Bookshop, "Retrospektib: Buhay at Panahon ni Jose F. Lacaba" started on Saturday and will be staged again tomorrow and on Nov. 26. The retrospective also marks Lacaba's 60th birthday.

NewsDesk Café is located at No. 8 Scout Madrinan cor. Scout Tobias streets, South Triangle, Quezon City.

Featured performers are Dong Abay, Boy Abunda, Ding Achacoso, Toto Africa, Gina Alajar, Pinky Amador, Raymond Bagatsing, Cooky Chua, Danny Dalena, Ricky Davao, Khavn de la Cruz, Lourd de Veyra, Popoy Diokno, Susan Fernandez, Mon Isberto, Joel Lamangan, Albert Martinez, Joan Orendain. Bibeth Orteza, Armida Siguion-Reyna, Luis Teodoro, Girl Valencia and Krip Yuson. Show starts at 8:45. Call 376-3965 for details, tickets and reservations.

Tonight

"A 'Quota' Evening with the Angfourgettables" at the Wack-Wack Golf and Country Club, Mandaluyong City.

"Road Rocks: Winston on Tour 2005" featuring Sandwich at Club V in Amorsolo, Makati.

Retrospect and Natural High at Virgin Café

Ntwine and Twisted Pair at Suburbia

Paramita at Freedom Bar, Quezon City

Fat Session at Tavern on the Square

Tomorrow

"Paano Kita Mapapasalamatan," a tribute to George Canseco with Kuh Ledesma, Basil Valdez, Christian Bautista, Martin Nievera, Pilita Corrales, Dulce and Zsa Zsa Padilla at the PICC

Teri De Sario and Joe Pizzulo at the Araneta Coliseum

The CompanY at SM Valenzuela

Wiseguys and 604 at Suburbia

Ntwineand Sipol at Tavern on the Square

November 21

Freestyle at Tavern on the Square

Industria at Virgin Café

Dawn Bande at Pan Pacific Hotel

November 22

Akafellas and 604 at Virgin Café

Freeverse at Suburbia

Wiseguys at Tavern on the Square

November 23

Nyoy Volante at Suburbia

Freeverse at Virgin Café

Malik and Wency Cornejo at Tavern on the Square

November 24

Ron Antonio at Virgin Café

Silkat Suburbia

8-Track at Tavern on the Square

November 25

Winston in Concert featuring True Faith and Natural High at Virgin Café

Ntwine and Twisted Pair at Suburbia

Fat Session at Tavern on the Square

November 26

The CompanY at SM Bicutan

K and the Boxers at Starmall Edsa; 4 p.m.

Kyla and Escape at Virgin Café

Ntwineand Sipol at Tavern on the Square

November 28

Freestyle at Tavern on the Square

Industria at Virgin Café

November 29

604 at Virgin Café

Freeverse at Suburbia

Wiseguys at Tavern on the Square

November 30

Jimmy Bondoc at Suburbia

Freeverse at Virgin Café

Malik and Wency Cornejo at Tavern on the Square

ANG FOURgettables

"This generation's SLEEPLESS IN SEATTLE with a twist of GHOST."
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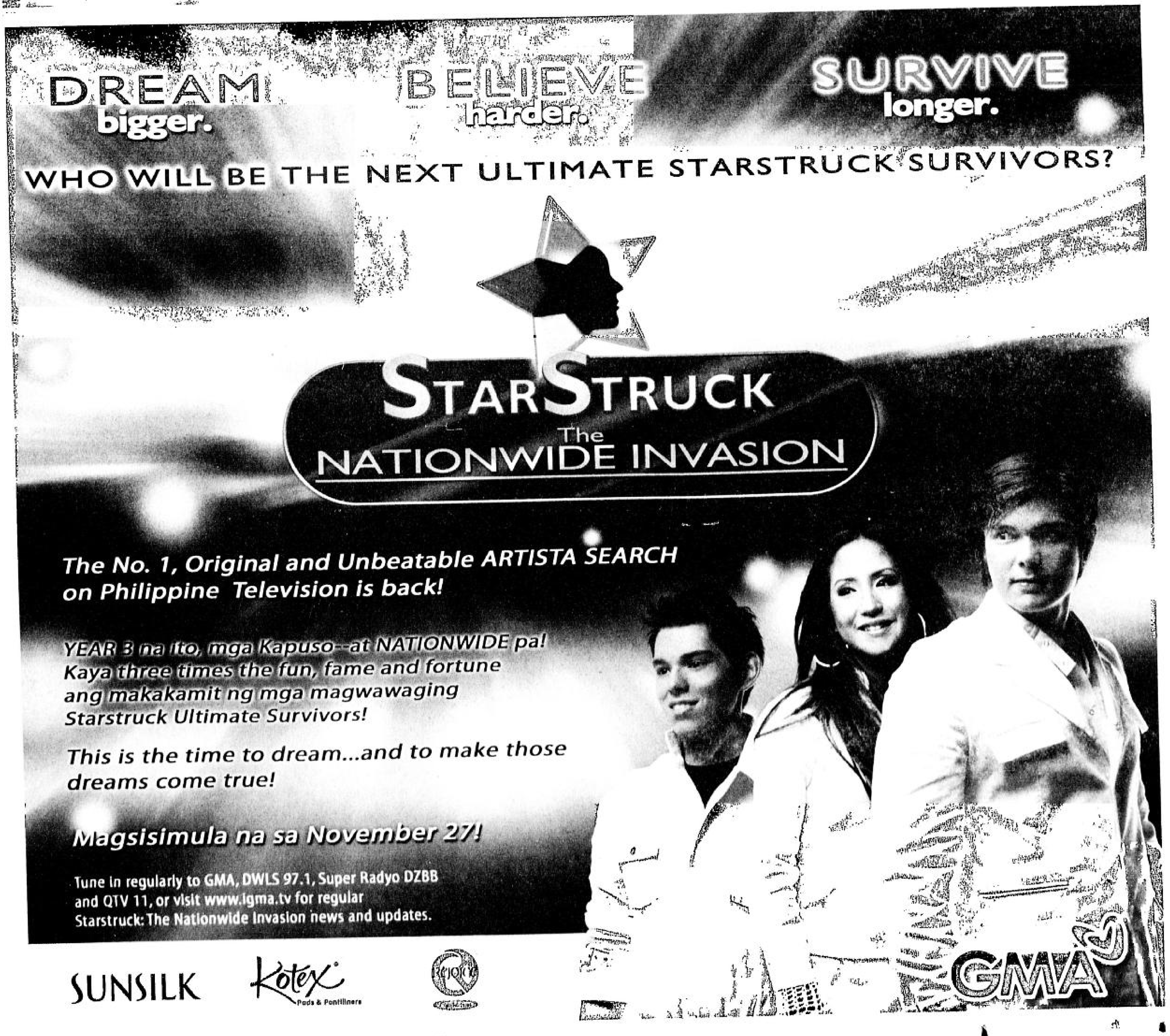
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MiG's surprise gig

INXS' loss is obviously this nice dude's gain. It seems an Ayesa fever is about to run high, and it's starting in Manila

By Pocholo Concepcion
Contributor
Photos by Rodel Rotoni

TUESDAY NIGHT, Conway's Bar in Makati Shangri-La is abuzz with unusual activity. As reporters and cameramen survey the scene by the entrance, detectives are overheard speaking on their radios, "He's still upstairs…"

Inside the bar, the typical hotel lounge crowd swells as groups of families with grandmothers hurry up to find their seats. Suddenly, loud cheers and applause signal the arrival of the Shang's celebrated guest, booked temporarily since Monday and apparently out of his room to bond with relatives and jam with the house band.

MiG Ayesa, casually dressed in a denim blue shirt and impossibly tight jeans, has been described as probably the nicest rock star around. Some say he is in fact too nice—a trait quite rare especially in rock 'n' roll. But as MiG flashes his by now familiar wide smile, one feels the sincerity that goes with the hand salutes and nods of appreciation.

Bright side

The diminutive but well-built dude, born in the Philippines and raised in Australia, has caught the imagination of many local music fans who followed and supported his heroic stand as competitor in the recently concluded "Rock Star: INXS" reality TV search for a frontman to replace the late Michael Hutchence.

Somehow, it's a good thing MiG placed third, because INXS' loss is now his own gain as far as a career in music is concerned. He's got a record deal in Universal Records USA. In all probability, the local executives of Sony BMG, Warner and the rest must be raring to strike their own deals with MiG.

Is MiG fever about to run high?

Onstage at Conway's, it's so obvious that MiG is bound to be hot property. A few seconds of conferring with the house band he hasn't met until now is enough for MiG to warm up his audience with a cover of the Black Crowes' "Too Hot To Handle."

The house band itself appears to be having a ball, the guitarist exhibiting his flair with smokin' lead lines.

For the second number, MiG walks over to the keyboards and plays the intro to Peter Frampton's "Baby, I Love Your Way"—a song he did on "Rock Star" and with which Frampton himself was reportedly very much impressed. MiG improvises and hits the lyrics' end phrases with high notes that seem to be one of his trademarks.

Two songs are all he can do, thank you, but of course the people won't let him go. Whispering to the house band, MiG proceeds to center stage and says it's time to get a little funky.

The word funky is crucial, because MiG Ayesa has described himself in earlier interviews as someone partial to soulful, funky music.

The ultimate test of MiG's artistry should come when he records his own songs, but for now he's doing fine as the Conway's crowd gets up and dances to his lusty rendition of classic Wild Cherry: "I was a boogie singer…playin' in a rock 'n' roll baaand…"

The music over, MiG the bad-ass rocker turns nice boy one more as he joins relatives and kisses them one after the other. An aunt, lawyer and once-upon-a-time dzRJ deejay Katrina Legarda echoes what the matriarch Charito Legarda, MiG's *lola* from his mother's side, said earlier: "We're all proud of him."

(MiG flies back tomorrow to Los Angeles, California, where he is currently based, after performing at the Ad Congress in Cebu.

He will be back for the MTV Music Summit for HIV/AIDS concert on Dec. 1 at the Fort Bonifacio Global City.)

THE ROCKER with aunt Katrina Legarda

ANOTHER break with another aunt, Charito Legarda.

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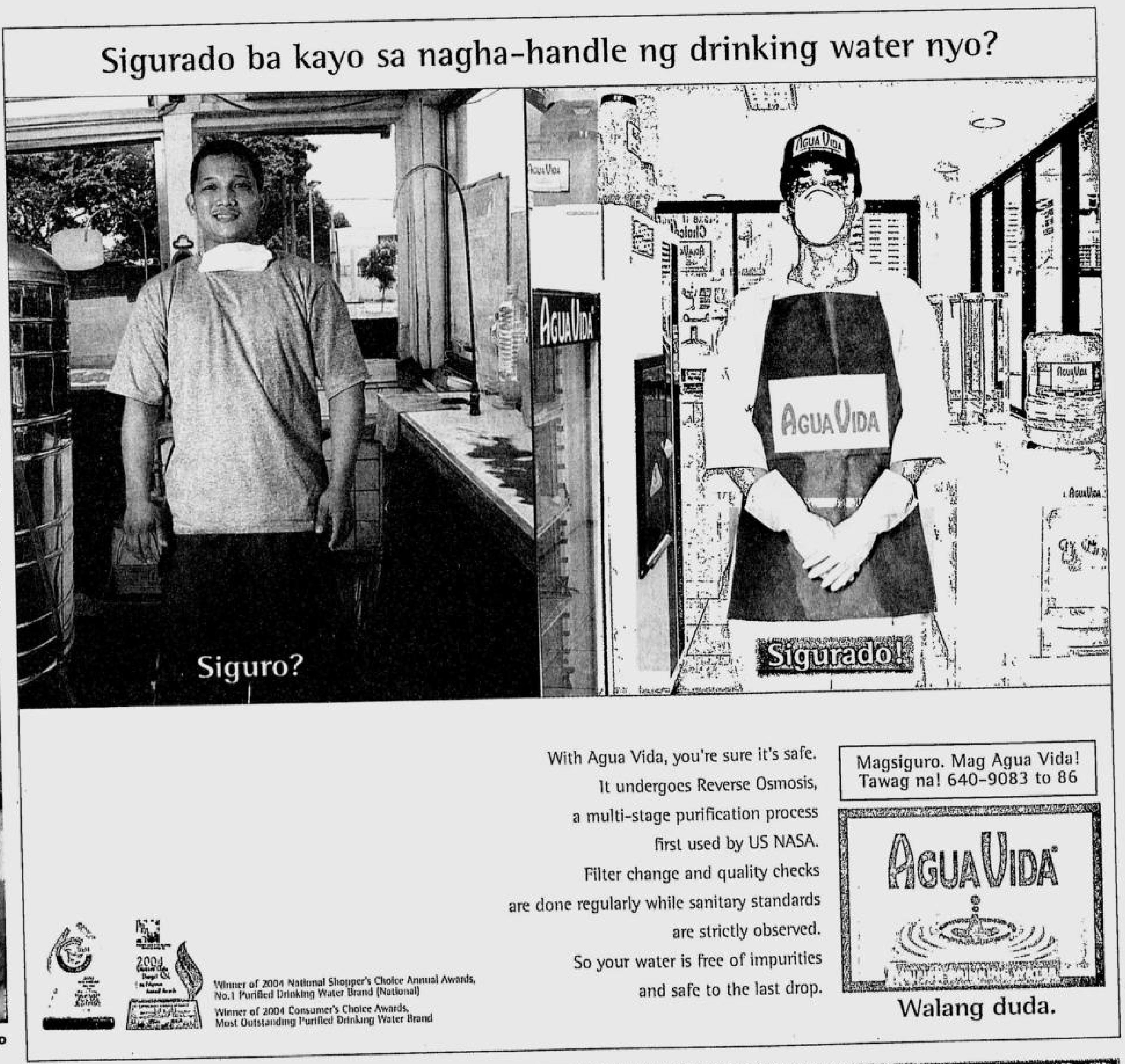
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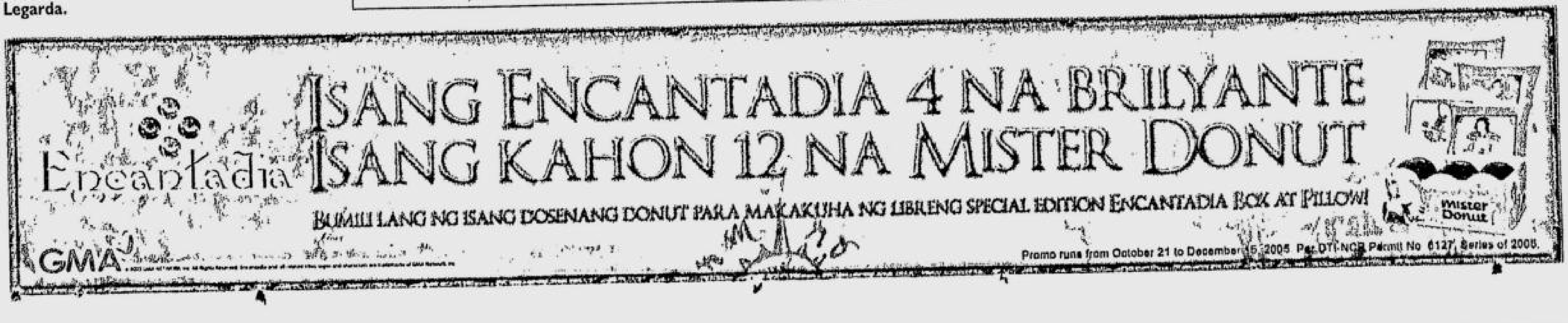

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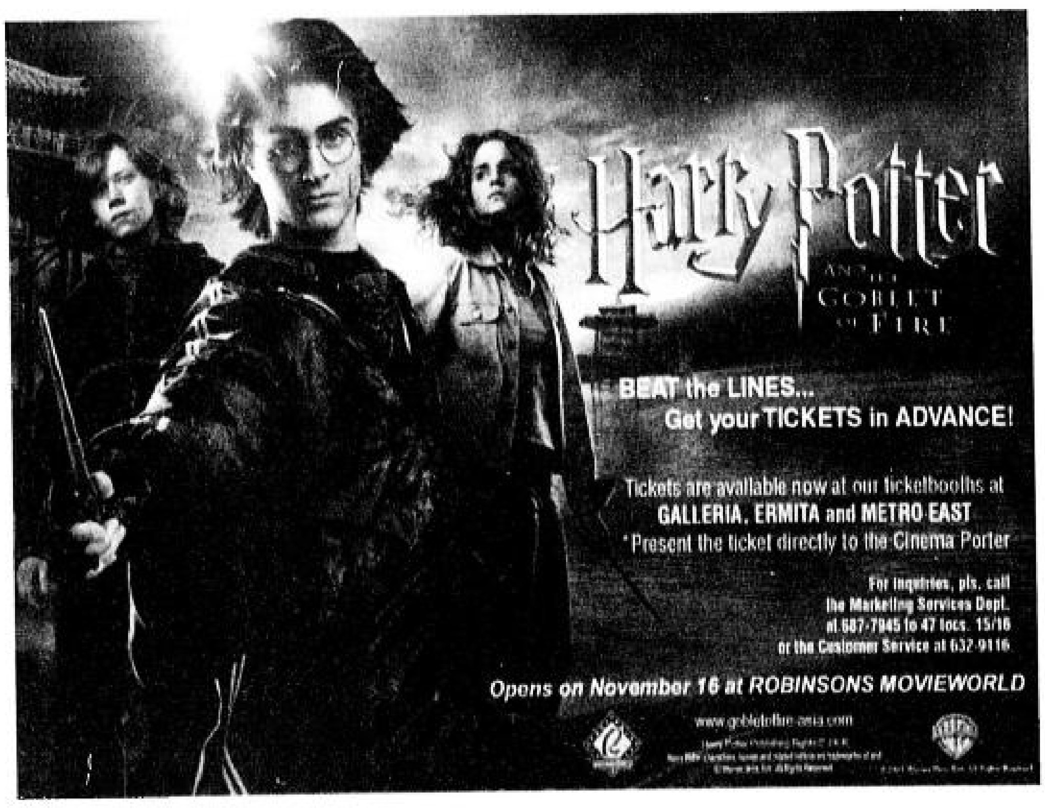
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Cinema	Film	Times
1	HARRY POTTER & The GOBLET OF FIRE GP	10:30, 1:55, 5:20, 8:50
2	HARRY POTTER & The GOBLET OF FIRE GP	12:45, 4:10, 7:35, 11:00

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Cinema	Film	Times
3	FLIGHT PLAN PG13	10:40, 12:50, 3:05, 5:20, 7:35, 9:50
4	HARRY POTTER & The GOBLET OF FIRE GP	11:50, 3:20, 6:45, 10:10
5	HARRY POTTER & The GOBLET OF FIRE GP	11:20, 2:45, 6:10, 9:40

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ROUNDUP

Is that Chapman?

NEW YORK—Mark Chapman, the man who shot dead John Lennon 25 years ago, will be heard for the first time on US television Friday describing his unstoppable mission to find his own personality by murdering the former Beatle.

In a documentary to be aired on the NBC network, Chapman describes how he went through with the killing and shot Lennon five times in the back outside the Dakota apartment complex in New York on Dec. 8, 1980.

"I was under total compulsion," Chapman says. "I'm thoroughly convinced in my conscience and in my heart that there was nothing I could do beyond that point to help myself."

The remarks are contained on audiotapes recorded in 1991 and 1992 by Jack Jones, a newspaper reporter who interviewed Chapman in prison and then wrote a book, "Take Me Down" about his life and crime.

The tapes will also form part of a Channel 4 documentary, "I Killed John Lennon," to be broadcast next month in Britain on the anniversary of his death.

Chapman, who was arrested at the scene of the murder, is currently serving a 20 years to life prison sentence.

Now 50, he was denied parole for a third time last year. *AFP*

'Maxi' gets an A

"Ang Pagdadalaga ni Maximo Oliveros," Special Jury Prize winner at the Cinemalaya and Golden Zenith awardee at the Montreal World Film Festival, merited an A from the Cinema Evaluation Board (CEB).

"At first we were nervous," said producer Raymond Lee of ufo Pictures. "But when we heard the good news, we were so happy. I heard 9 out of 11 jurors gave it an A."

"Maximo" is the third digital movie to get an A in a matter of months—after "Ilusyon" and "Big Time." The only other A movie this year, "La Visa Loca," was shot on film.

"Significant," Lee calls this development. "The 100 percent tax rebate is a very tangible form of support and it'll be a big help when our film opens in selected theaters like SM, Ayala and Gateway, this Nov. 30."

"Maximo," which was blown up to film for its theatrical release, will be self-distributed by ufo Pictures with the help Star Cinema.

Bayani San Diego Jr.

'Dubai' is a hit

According to Star Cinema, its latest film "Dubai," starring Aga Muhlach, Claudine Barretto and John Lloyd Cruz and directed by Rory Quintos, is nearing the P200 million mark at the box office. It is now on its sixth week in local cinemas and was shown in 12 cities around the world.

Powerhouse

LOS ANGELES—This year's best actress Oscar-winner, Hilary Swank, and fellow nominee Imelda Staunton are teaming up to star in a new high school drama called "Freedom Writers," the industry press said Tuesday.

Filming is set to begin in Los Angeles next month, according to the entertainment industry publication, the Hollywood Reporter. *AFP*

MMTA
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MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING

SHANG CINEPLEX
6th floor Shangri-la Plaza EDSA corner Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City
Telephone: 633.2227 / 6337851 loc. 171
1 (DOLBY) HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLE OF FIRE GP
2 (DOLBY) HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLE OF FIRE GP
3 (DOLBY) HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLE OF FIRE GP
4 (DOLBY) HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLE OF FIRE GP
PREMIERE
(DOLBY) HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLE OF FIRE GP

Filinvest
FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
3 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
4 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
5 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
6 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
7 GOLD (DOLBY) FLIGHT PLAN
8 ISPIRITISTA
9 LEGEND OF ZORRO
10 FOUR BROTHERS

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City) tel 687.6963 or 72
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLE OF FIRE
2 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLE OF FIRE
3 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLE OF FIRE
4 (DOLBY) FLIGHT PLAN

CINEMA 2000
Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 ISPIRITISTA
2 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
3 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
4 WAITING

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(BIÑAN) tel. (049) 4111146
1 WAITING
2 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
3 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
4 ISPIRITISTA

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
2 DARK WATER
3 (DOLBY) THE TRANSPORTER-2

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 40 YEARS OLD VIRGIN
2 ISPIRITISTA
3 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
4 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 40 YEARS OLD VIRGIN
3 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE

CINEMA 2000
Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
3 LEGEND OF ZORRO
4 FLIGHT PLAN

Blue Wave MARIKINA
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sto. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341927
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 (DOLBY) FLIGHT PLAN
3 (DOLBY) FOUR BROTHERS
4 (DOLBY) WAITING

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
tel 7334228
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
3 ISPIRITISTA
4 LEGEND OF ZORRO
5 MASAHISTA

starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Mandaluyong) tel. 7266160
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 DOMINO
4 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
5 MASAHISTA

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 SPEED RUN
3 SORUM
4 RESERVED

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274
1 MASAHISTA
2 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
3 FLIGHT PLAN

Center Mall Cinema
Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue
(Baguio City) tel (074)- (4449346)
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE

METROPOLIS star
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(ALABANG) tel. 8504286, 5433994
1 CRY WOLF
2 SHANGHAI LILY
3 DUNGEONS & DRAGON
4 LEGEND OF ZORRO
5 (DOLBY) RESERVED
6 RESERVED

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
3 (DTS EX) FLIGHT PLAN
4 WAITING

Cine Nepo
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.0121
1 FLIGHT PLAN
2 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
3 (DOLBY) FLIGHT PLAN
4 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE

Cine Nepo
(Dagupan City) tel (075) 515.0409
1 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
2 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
3 (DOLBY) CLOSED
4 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE

starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(LAS PINAS) tel. 8735004
1 (DOLBY) WAR EAGLE
2

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 LAND OF THE DEAD
2 ISPIRITISTA

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 (SDDS) WE WERE SOLDIERS
2 SAPLOT
3 ALYAS BOMBA QUEEN
4 (DTS) BELPHEGOR

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL
3 (DTS) WAITING
4 FLIGHT PLAN
5 MASAHISTA

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 WAITING
2 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
3 PARAISONG GUBAT
4 FLIGHT PLAN

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 DOMINO
2 KAPAG ANG PALAY NAGING BIGAYMAY BUMAYO

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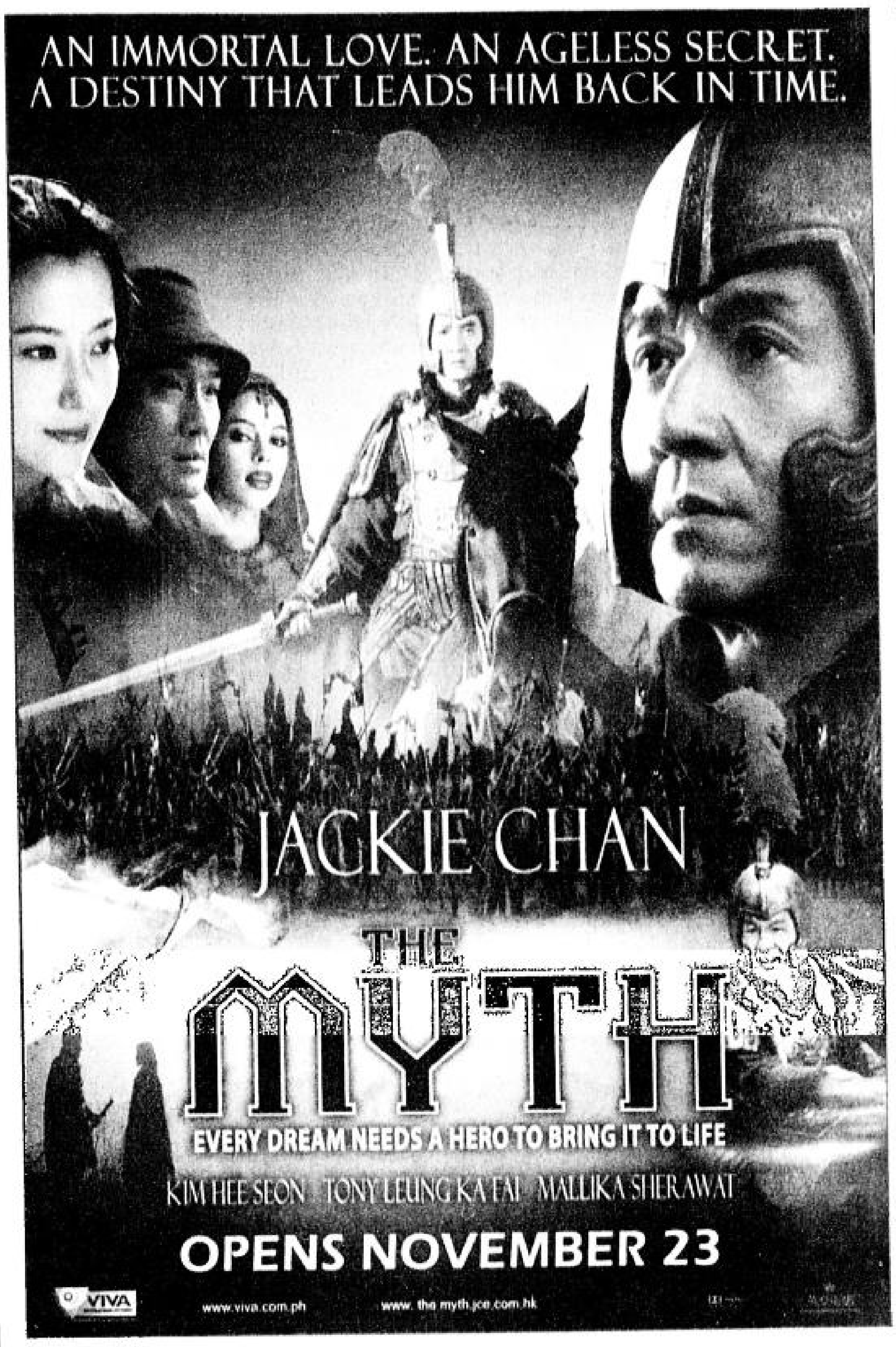
AN IMMORTAL LOVE. AN AGELESS SECRET.
A DESTINY THAT LEADS HIM BACK IN TIME.
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EVERY DREAM NEEDS A HERO TO BRING IT TO LIFE
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MORENO: "I hope the truth will come out."

OVERHEARD
THIS WEEK

Brickbats

DUELING QUOTES ON THE DAMAGE SUIT filed by Alma Moreno and company against Robby Tarroza and Joed Serrano, whom she believes caused their detention at, and deportation from, the Narita airport in Japan.

Alma says: "I am fighting not just for myself but also for my two innocent children VJ and MM, who suffered trauma. I believe we only served as the key that exposed Robby Tarroza and Joed Serrano's activities in public. This fight also belongs to all those they've stepped on in the past. We've been receiving calls from potential witnesses. Some are even willing to fly back from Japan to help us."

Robby says: "They have brought their complaints to the proper forum. That pleases me deeply. Maybe this will be the end of the media circus they've made of the whole ordeal (mine). My lawyers and I will face the charges with God and truth on our side."

Bayani San Diego Jr.

TARROZA: "The truth is on our side."

SHANG CINEPLEX

① HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE
MTRCB GP
1:15, 4:30, 7:45, 11:00

② FLIGHTPLAN
MTRCB PG-13 11:15, 2:30
HARRY POTTER 4
MTRCB GP 5:45, 9:00

③ HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE
MTRCB GP
12:15, 3:30, 6:46, 10:00

④ HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE
MTRCB GP
10:45, 2:00, 5:15, 8:30

PREMIERE THEATRE HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE
MTRCB GP 11:45, 3:00, 6:15, 9:30
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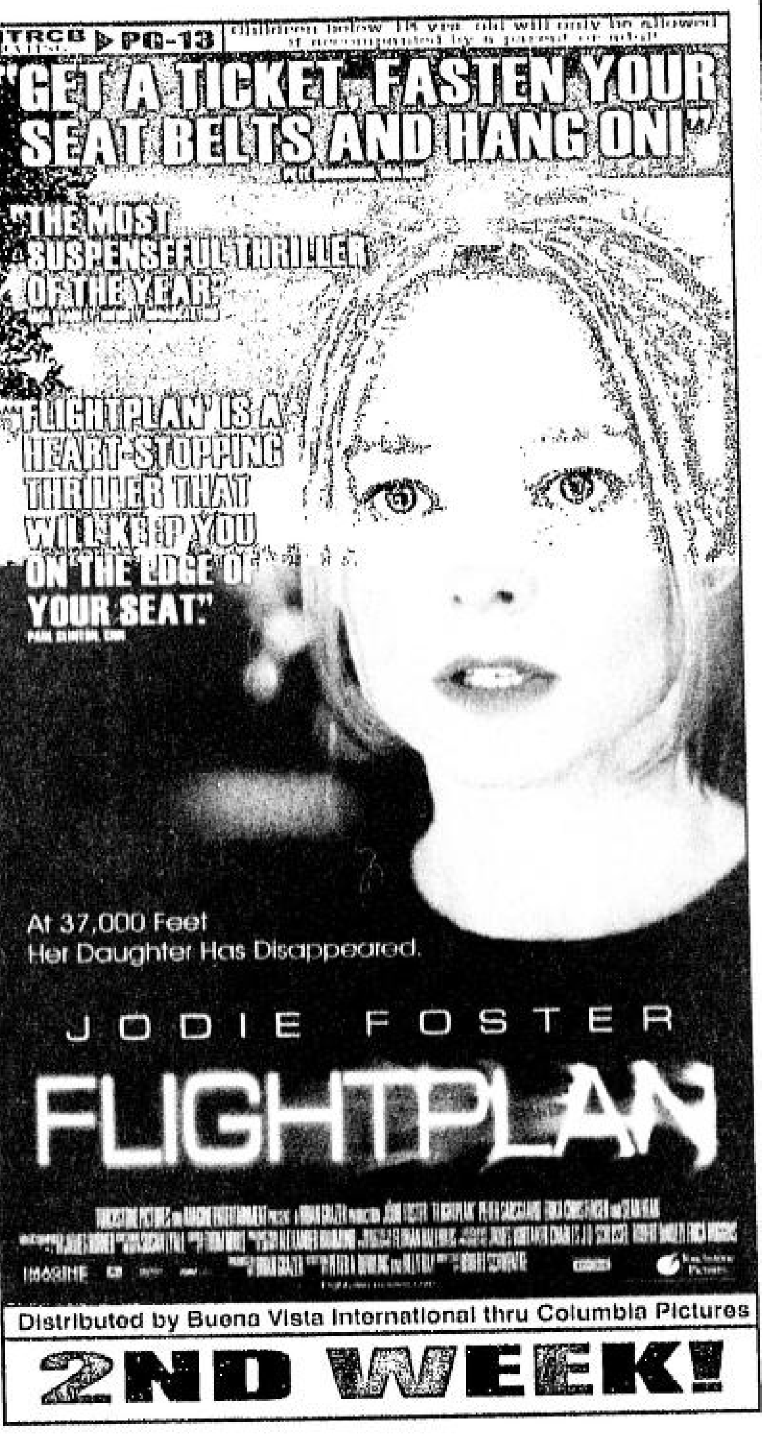
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"FLIGHTPLAN IS A HEART-STOPPING THRILLER THAT WILL KEEP YOU ON THE EDGE OF YOUR SEAT."
PAUL CLINTON, CNN
At 37,000 Feet
Her Daughter Has Disappeared.
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2ND WEEK!

Araneta Center Leisure Guide

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An Araneta Center Holiday Special
November 18, 6pm (corner of Gateway Drive & Gen. Araneta Ave.)
Ryan Agoncillo | Blanca Gonzales
Isay Alvarez | Robert Seña | Nolyn Cabahug | Bimbo Cerrudo
and the Concert Chorus Bagong Himig
Quezon City Mayor Sonny Belmonte
Local Government Officials & Ms. Kris Aquino

CINEMA SCHEDULES

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P120 RESERVED SEATS
P140 HARRY POTTER
GLOBE PLATINUM P240 / P299
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HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
11:20 / 12:20 / 12:40 / 1:20 / 2:20
3:20 / 3:40 / 4:20 / 5:20 / 6:20
6:40 / 7:20 / 8:20 / 9:20 / 9:40
THE FOUR BROTHERS
1:45 / 4:10 / 6:35 / 9:00
FLIGHT PLAN
12:20 / 2:40 / 5:00 / 7:20 / 9:40

GLOBE PLATINUM CINEMA
HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
12:00 / 3:00 / 6:00 / 9:00
THE LEGEND OF ZORRO
1:15 / 4:00 / 6:45 / 9:30
THE 40 YR OLD VIRGIN
1:30 / 4:00 / 6:30 / 9:00
WAITING
12:50 / 3.00 / 5.10 / 7:20 / 9:30

ALI MALL CINEMAS
① HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET
11:30 / 2:30 / 5:30 / 8:30
② HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET
12:10 R5 / 1:55 / 4:55 / 7:55
③ FLIGHT PLAN
1:30 / 3:50 / 6:10 / 8:30
④ ISPIRITISTA
12:30 / 3:00 / 5:30 / 8:00
⑤ THE LEGEND OF ZORRO
12:00 / 2:45 / 5:30 / 8:15
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What's in a name?

Zsa Zsa Padilla is still a 'Tatlonghari' in legal documents, including her passport

By Nini Valera

ZSA ZSA PADILLA STILL BEARS THE name of her ex-husband, Modesto Tatlonghari in legal documents even if their marriage was annulled early this year.

"It's complicated," said Zsa Zsa during an exclusive interview with INQUIRER Entertainment. "I still have to fix some documents, including my passport, which I use a lot because I'm always abroad doing shows."

Reverting back to her maiden name would come before she finally marries Dolphy, her live-in partner for 20 years. But Zsa Zsa, 41, and the 77-year-old comedian have not set another wedding date after their planned nuptials in December last year was aborted—because the annulment papers had not come through early enough.

"My ex-husband did not have anything to do with that," she stressed. "I want to make it clear that he did not contest my petition for annulment."

Traumatic

Zsa Zsa did not explain further how the annulment was botched. But she confided that the aborted wedding was a traumatic experience for her.

"We already had the dress. We had sent out invitations," she recalled. "I can't plan another wedding so soon after. "

But when she does, it will be "very simple," according to Zsa Zsa. "But right now, Dolphy and I are not even talking about it."

In an earlier interview with INQUIRER Entertainment, Dolphy declared that one of his biggest wishes was to walk Zsa Zsa down the aisle—while he could still walk.

Zsa Zsa is set to appear in "Ako, Legal Wife," Regal Entertainment's entry to the Metro Manila Film Festival next month.

"I had a blast doing the film," said Zsa Zsa. "I've always wanted to be a comedian, and I tried to do stand-up [comedy] here."

Spellbinding Potter flick

By Oliver M. Pulumbarit
Contributor

REVIEW

MANY THINGS FEEL NEW IN "HARRY Potter and the Goblet of Fire," fourth installment in the hit book series-turned-movie franchise, as its young actors and characters are irrevocably transformed by their biggest challenge yet: adolescence. The movie now appeals more to new teen and 'tween viewers, and even to more adults. They're growing up, and this is affecting them in new relationships and challenges that a more mature portion of its wide viewing demographic can identify with.

This does not mean that their dealings will be inspired by "The O.C." anytime soon; the new adventure still retains a Disney-esque innocence while charting a more epic, grander course.

We discover a more competitive side to Harry (Daniel Radcliffe), as he becomes the object of his Hogwarts schoolmates' envy, when a powerful object, the Goblet of Fire, mysteriously drafts him to represent them in an inter-school contest called the Triwizard Tournament. His close pals, the angst-ridden Ron (Rupert Grint) and the blossoming Hermione (Emma Watson) have their own insecurities to trounce. More problems for them mean more viewing enjoyment for us, especially since the trio's exploits here are finely executed.

A broader scope of the mythology's secret world is explored by introducing magic practitioners in the Tri-wizard event. Visiting sorcerers-in-training make things more interesting at Hogwarts, and for Harry's clique.

"Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire" richly advances the saga in other major aspects as well. There's death, a resurrection, a fateful duel, and a renewed sense of purpose by the movie's end—ominous yet exciting signs of things to come. Brit director Mike Newell's enchanting take on the young heroes' latest school year allows him to develop multiple characters in non-stop, complicated and expansive scenarios in two and a half hours. He incorporates an eclectic visual strength that's different from Alfonso Cuaron's atmospheric approach on "Prisoner of Azkaban," but it's still bloody magical.

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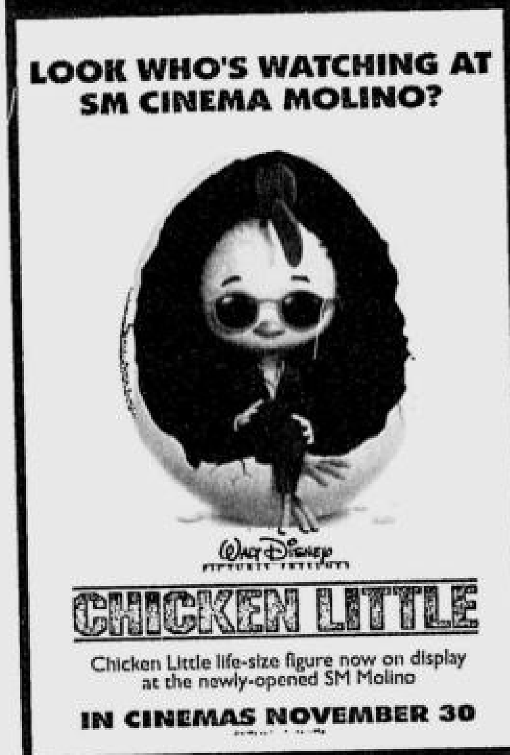

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2 HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE
12:40MF/03:50/10:10LMF

MEGAMALL
1 HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE
10:40FS/11:10MF/02:20/05:30
08:10LFS/08:40LMF/11:20END

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1 HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE
01:10FS/01:30MF/04:40
07:15LFS/07:45LMF/10:30END
2 HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE
12:00FS/12:10MF/03:20/06:30
09:15LFS/09:30LMF/12:25END
3 FLIGHTPLAN
11:50FS/12:00MF/01:54/03:48/05:42/07:36
09:16LFS/09:30LMF/11:10END

METRO MANILA

SM MEGAMALL
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 LORD OF WAR
3 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
4 FOUR BROTHERS
5 FLIGHTPLAN
6 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
7 ISPIRITISTA
8 LEGEND OF ZORRO
9 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
10 TRUMPETS: LITTLE MERMAID
11 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
12 DOOM

SM CITY STA. MESA
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 LEGEND OF ZORRO
3 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
4 FLIGHTPLAN
5 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
6 CRY WOLF
7 ISPIRITISTA
8 WAITING
9 DEUCE BIGALOW
10 DOOM

SM CITY BICUTAN
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
3 FLIGHTPLAN
4 LEGEND OF ZORRO

SM VALENZUELA NOW OPEN
1 FLIGHTPLAN
2 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
3 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
4 ISPIRITISTA

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
1 MY SASSY GIRL
2 LAND OF THE DEAD
3 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
4 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
5 ISPIRITISTA
6 LEGEND OF ZORRO
7 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
8 WAITING
9 FLIGHTPLAN
10 DOOM
11 CRY WOLF
12 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE

SM CITY SOUTHMALL
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 FLIGHTPLAN
3 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
4 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
5 ISPIRITISTA
6 LEGEND OF ZORRO
7 CRY WOLF
8 DOOM
9 FOUR BROTHERS
10 AB-NORMAL BEAUTY

SUPERCENTER SUCAT
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
3 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
4 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
3 LEGEND OF ZORRO
4 ISPIRITISTA
5 FOUR BROTHERS
6 FLIGHTPLAN
7 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
8 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE

SM CITY MANILA
1 FLIGHTPLAN
2 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
3 WAITING
4 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
5 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
6 FOUR BROTHERS
7 ISPIRITISTA
8 DOOM
9 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
10 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
11 AB-NORMAL BEAUTY
12 LEGEND OF ZORRO

SM CINEMA SAN LAZARO
1 DOOM
2 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
3 FLIGHTPLAN
4 ISPIRITISTA
5 LEGEND OF ZORRO
6 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE

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4 FOUR BROTHERS
5 FLIGHTPLAN
6 ISPIRITISTA

SM CITY BAGUIO
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 FLIGHTPLAN
3 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
4 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE

SM MOLINO NOW OPEN
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
3 FLIGHTPLAN
4 ISPIRITISTA

SM CITY BACOOR
1 CRY WOLF
2 FOUR BROTHERS
3 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
4 FLIGHTPLAN
5 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
6 ISPIRITISTA
7 LEGEND OF ZORRO
8 DOOM

SM CITY MARILAO
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
3 ISPIRITISTA
4 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE

SM CITY DASMARINAS
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 FOUR BROTHERS
3 ISPIRITISTA
4 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE

SM CITY LUCENA
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
3 FOUR BROTHERS
4 FLIGHTPLAN

SM CITY BATANGAS
1 FLIGHTPLAN
2 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
3 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
4 DOOM

VISAYAS AND MINDANAO

SM CITY CEBU
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
3 FLIGHTPLAN
4 TRANSPORTER 2
5 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
6 DOOM
7 LEGEND OF ZORRO
8 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE

SM CITY ILOILO
1 DOOM
2 RESERVED
3 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
4 FLIGHTPLAN
5 LEGEND OF ZORRO
6 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
7 RESERVED
8 WAITING

SM CITY DAVAO
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
3 FLIGHTPLAN
4 DOOM
5 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
6 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
3 FLIGHTPLAN
4 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE

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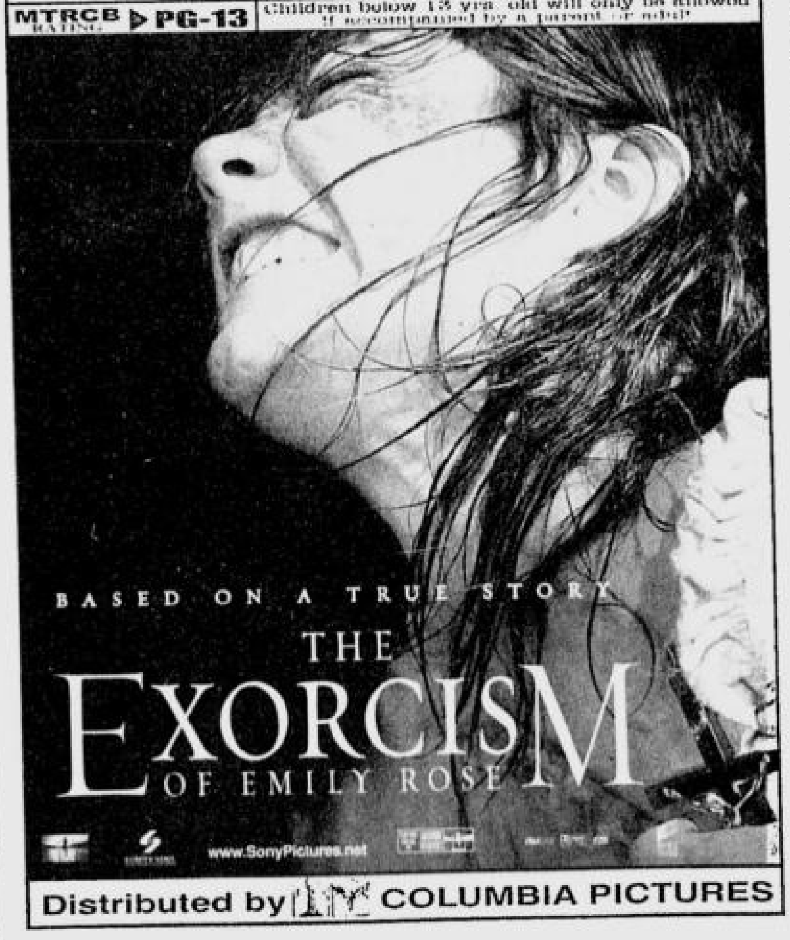

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12:45, 4:10, 7:35, 11:00
GP

3 HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE
12:00, 3:25, 6:50, 10:15
GP

4 FLIGHT PLAN
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PG-13

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2005

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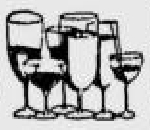
WHAT'S INSIDE



Lorenzos attempt last-ditch Del Monte defense /B3

Tourist arrivals seen hitting 2.6M /B7

October budget gap stays within ceiling

10-month deficit also 26% lower at ₱115.5B

By Michelle V. Remo

THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT's budget deficit stood lower than programmed in October after main revenue-collecting agencies recovered from shortfalls in the past and surpassed their targets for the month.

The Bureau of Treasury yesterday reported that the deficit for October amounted to only P7.1 billion, or 30 percent lower than the P10.2-billion ceiling set for the month.

This brought the January-to-October budget deficit to only P115.5 billion, or 26-percent lower than the P156-billion ceiling for the first 10 months of the year.

"This is better than what we expected. The latest deficit figure indicated that by the end of the year, we could have a deficit lower than the full-year target," Finance Secretary Margarito Teves said in a briefing yesterday. The government has set a deficit ceiling of P180 billion for 2005.

Earlier estimates by the government showed that the deficit for October could have reached P15 billion, or higher than the ceiling, and that the budget gap figure for the first 10 months could have stood 21-percent lower than the ceiling for the period.

The fiscal data for October highlighted the performance of the BIR and the Bureau of Customs, which both surpassed by a slight margin their revenue collection targets after having struggled to achieve their goals in the past months.

The BIR collected P47.5 billion compared with its P46.9-billion target for the month. The BOC collected P13.6 billion, higher than its P13.4-billion target. It was only the first time in nine months that the BOC met its target for a month.

On a cumulative basis, however, the BIR was still short by P8.8 billion of its target for

OCTOBER/ B4

Decline in local petroleum prices looms

By Abigail L. Ho

AFTER SUFFERING THROUGH MONTHS of oil price increases, motorists may now heave a sigh of relief as world oil prices continue to slide and local prices reflect these in the coming days.

Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla said local pump prices were not expected to go up any time soon as international prices soften and the peso strengthens.

"We can now look forward to happier weekends," he told reporters yesterday.

The past several months before November, local oil companies raised their prices almost every week due to the high prices of oil in the world market.

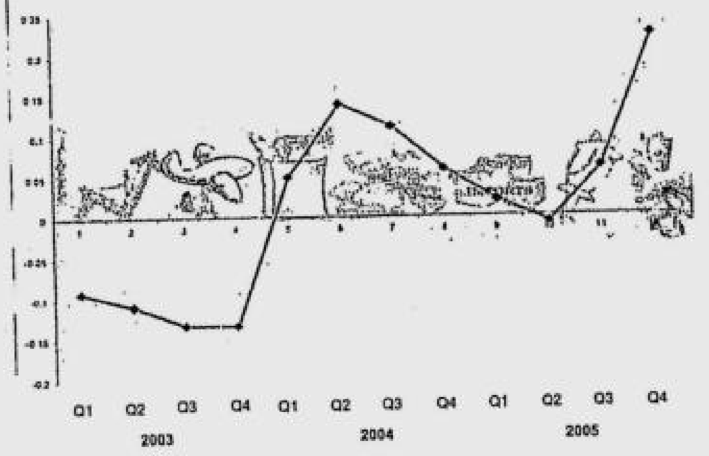
Shortly before the implementation of the expanded value-added tax on petroleum products, however, interna-

DECLINE/ B4

INQUIRER MONITOR

Figures that matter in our nation's life

Leading Economic Indicators (1st to 4th Quarter, 2003-2005)



Source: National Statistical Coordination Board

LEADING Economic Index (LEI) for the fourth quarter of 2005 continue to move upward from 0.060 to 0.223. The LEI serves as a basis for short-term forecasting of the macroeconomic activity in the country. It involves the study of the behavior of indicators that move upward or downward before the actual expansion or contraction of the economy. Among the indicators used are stock price index, tourist arrivals, consumer price index, exchange rate, imports, electric energy consumption, money supply, terms of trade and new businesses. *Chona Galang, PDI Research*

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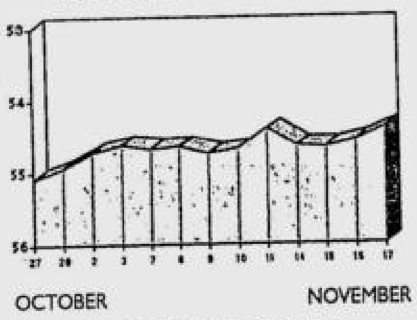

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As of 5 p.m., Nov. 17, 2005

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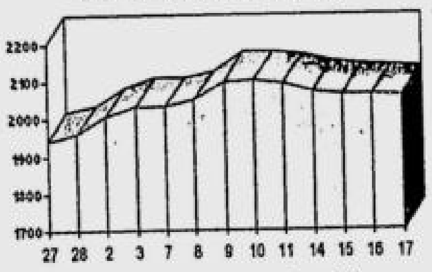
per ounce Hong Kong, Nov. 16, 2005

STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B2)

Shares close lower

SHARE PRICES CLOSED 0.22-percent lower yesterday in an extended technical correction, with trade cautious ahead of a meeting of the central bank's monetary policy board, dealers said.

Traders said the market's slow consolidation dragged on following recent gains.

They said there was speculation that the board may raise key interest rates again to fend off inflation.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index shed 4.62 points to 2,056.13 after trading between 2,054.18 and 2,062.56. The index now has lost 2 percent over the last week.

Volume reached 692.58 million shares worth P906.1 million. Losers outnumbered gainers 42 to 31, while 44 stocks ended unchanged.

The broader all-shares index retreated 1.87 points to 1,248.91. All sectoral indicators retreated except the property subindex, which advanced. Decliners led gainers 42 to 31, while 44 stocks were unchanged.

"We're going through the profit-taking stage after the recent run-up. Investors are just waiting for a bigger discount in prices before buying stocks again," said Nestor Aguila of DA Market Securities.

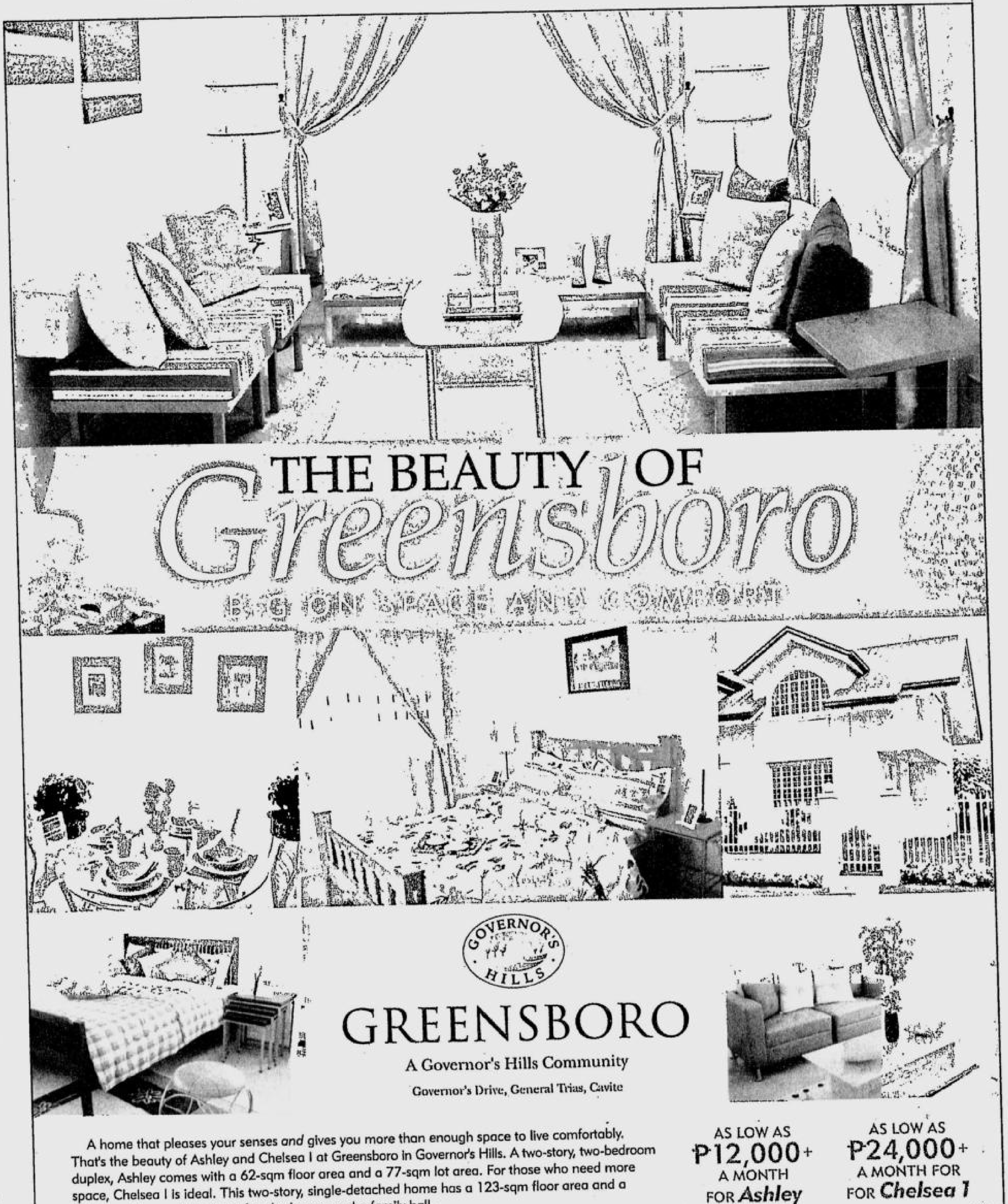
Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. was the market's top-traded stock, sliding down P15 at P1,770.

Ayala Land Inc. gained 10 centavos to P9.40 while its parent Ayala Corp. advanced P5 to P312.50.

Manila Electric Co. (Meralco) "B" shares, available to local and foreign investors, gained 50 centavos to P22. Meralco "A" shares, limited to local investors, ended unchanged at P14.25.

San Miguel Corp. "A" shares ended steady at P65 while San Miguel Corp. "B" shares were down 50 centavos at P90.

"The market is digesting gains made this November. At one point, the market was up 17 percent for year to date, so this is just part of a healthy correction we have been anticipating," said AB Capital Securities analyst Erwin Balita. *AFP, AP*



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For Announcement Purposes Only

Pancake House nets P6.81M

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

PANCAKE HOUSE INC. SHOWED ROBUST earnings in the third quarter, steered by its investments in strong brands, the company said in its financial report.

From July to September, Pancake House posted a profit of P6.81 million, reversing a loss of P951,778 in the same quarter last year.

Revenue during the third quarter rose 29 percent to P176.9 million.

Pancake House's consolidated net income for the nine-month period stood at P13.79 million, up 11 percent from P12.4 million in the same period last year.

Total revenue in the nine-month period amounted to P367.6 million, up 22 percent from last year due to the growth in franchise fees and better profit margins arising from price adjustments implemented in May to cover for higher costs of raw materials.

A recently acquired subsidiary, restaurant chain Dencio's, contributed P160.14 million to total revenue.

Sales are expected to further improve when additional Dencio's outlets open in Subic, The Fort, Tagaytay, Alabang and Technopark.

"The last 18 months was painful at Dencio's since mostly these were franchised stores but we are investing in co-owned stores in the future," said Martin Lorenzo, Pancake House chair.

Pancake House also recently bought Japanese food brand Teriyaki Boy, which is expected to grow its restaurant sales further.

PAL cuts passenger, cargo surcharges

PHILIPPINE AIRLINES WILL REDUCE ITS fuel surcharge for international cargo by $0.05 a kilo starting Nov. 21, the latest move by the flag carrier to ease the burden on the market following a similar rollback for domestic passenger travel this week.

PAL said cargo uplifted from Manila, Cebu, Davao and Gen. Santos City bound for the United States, Canada and Korea will now be subject to a fuel surcharge of $0.50 a kilo, down from $0.55, as the benchmark Fuel Price Index (FPI) fell for the third week in a row.

"Again, like our surcharge rollback for our domestic passengers, we are easing the burden on our cargo customers," said PAL executive vice president Henry So Uy.

"We understand their difficult economic situation at this time, particularly with the general rise in prices owing to the expanded VAT. This move should give cargo shippers a much-needed break."

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PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of November 17, 2005)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	1,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	33.5	33.5	33	33.5	1,027,400
Bank of the Phil. Islands	57	57	56.5	56.5	325,400
China Banking Corp.	605	605	605	605	25,600
Citystate Savings Bank	17.25	17.25	17.25	17.25	400
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.59	0.59	0.59	0.59	850,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	52.5	52.5	52.5	52.5	56,900
International Exch. Bank	20.75	21	20.75	21	200,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	30	30	29.5	29.5	202,900
Philippine National Bank	29.5	29.5	29.5	29.5	13,500
Phil. Savings Bank	33	33	33	33	100
Security Bank Corp.	34	34.5	34	34.5	824,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	30	30.5	30	30.5	8,900
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Bankard Inc.	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	100,000
First Metro Invest. Corp.	24.5	24.5	24.5	24.5	2,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	3020	3025	3020	3025	290
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2080	2090	2080	2080	2,820
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	13.5	13.5	13	13	21,000
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.92	0.92	0.9	0.92	13,800,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	710	715	705	710	29,330
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.05	0.055	0.048	0.048	22,800,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.055	0.055	0.0525	0.0525	3,100,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	3.35	3.35	3.25	3.3	2,230,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1780	1785	1770	1770	160,550
Ivantage Corp.	0.57	0.57	0.57	0.57	1,110,000
Philweb Corp.	0.017	0.017	0.015	0.016	175,000,000
POWER, ENERGY & OTHER UTILITIES					
Manila Electric Co. A	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	99,800
Manila Electric Co. B	22	22	22	22	2,232,600
Manila Water Co. Inc.	6.6	6.7	6.5	6.7	2,804,000
Petron Corp.	4.2	4.2	4.05	4.1	6,915,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.96	0.97	0.96	0.97	110,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.82	1.82	1.82	1.82	35,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	9.3	9.3	8.9	9.1	3,061,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.71	0.71	0.71	0.71	440,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	180,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.62	0.62	0.61	0.61	1,670,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	3.6	3.6	3.55	3.6	563,000
Phil Nat'l Const. Corp.	2.85	2.85	2.85	2.85	152,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.65	3.65	3.65	3.65	292,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	38.5	38.5	38	38	848,200
Pancake House Inc.	3.45	3.6	3.45	3.5	1,871,000
Swift Food Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	70,000
San Miguel Corp. A	64.5	65	64.5	65	19,400
San Miguel Corp. B	90	90	90	90	6,400
Phil Tob Flue Cur & Redry	6.3	8.4	6.3	8.4	3,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.3	0.31	0.3	0.31	230,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Alok-Big Wedge Co. Inc.	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6	1,000
Ayala Corp.	310	312.5	310	312.5	68,240
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	5	5	5	5	4,020,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.023	0.023	0.023	0.023	12,000,000
A. Soriano Corp.	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	50,000
APC Group Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.225	0.225	410,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.82	0.82	0.82	0.82	520,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.12	1.12	1.1	1.1	4,505,000
A Brown Co. Inc.	0.92	0.92	0.92	0.92	100,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.2	0.205	0.2	0.205	850,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.26	2,900,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	3.15	3.2	3.15	3.2	3,903,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.028	0.028	0.026	0.026	400,000
Fil-Estate Corp.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	200,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.3	1.48	1.26	1.3	2,426,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	47.5	48	47.5	47.5	367,500
Global Equities Inc.	0.065	0.065	0.065	0.065	800,000
House Of Investments Inc.	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	10,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	3.7	3.75	3.7	3.75	891,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. B	0.013	0.013	0.013	0.013	8,000,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.32	1.32	1.32	1.32	3,056,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	130,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	8,610,000
Paxys Inc.	5.8	6	5.7	5.8	5,785,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	200,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.52	0.52	0.52	0.52	1,960,000
SM Investments Corp.	246	248	245	246	30,580
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	4,750,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	500,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.225	0.23	390,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Metro Alliance Hldgs B	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	3,580,000
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	5,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.78	0.78	0.77	0.77	160,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.0625	0.07	0.0625	0.07	400,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	1	1	0.98	0.98	6,300,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.44	1.46	1.44	1.44	600,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	580,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp.(Pdr)	12.5	13.25	12.5	13	1,023,400
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	9	9	8.7	8.7	6,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	9.3	9.4	9.3	9.4	6,349,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.94	0.95	0.94	0.95	50,000
C&P Homes Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	6,400,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	1,000,000
EIB Realty Developers Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	50,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.44	0.44	0.44	0.44	7,150,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.46	1.46	1.4	1.4	2,075,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	100,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	550,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	1,040,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.1	2,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.3	5,070,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.98	0.98	0.98	0.98	120,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	0.98	0.98	0.92	0.97	230,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	11,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	5.6	5.6	5.5	5.6	750,000
Benguet Corp. A	8	8	8	8	5,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	1.52	1.54	1.5	1.54	26,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.22	0.22	0.215	0.215	3,020,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co B	0.245	0.245	0.24	0.24	1,150,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.018	0.018	0.018	0.018	39,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.028	0.028	0.026	0.027	150,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0055	0.006	0.0055	0.0055	46,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	1.16	1.16	1.14	1.14	589,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	1.34	1.34	1.3	1.3	2,686,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	25.5	26	25.5	26	106,500
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	40,000
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	80,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	10,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.7	26,000
Sinophil Corp	0.145	0.145	0.14	0.145	2,970,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	20,000

DISCLOSURES

LMG Chemicals Corp. (LCC) announced the termination of agreement between Chemphil Marketing Corp, a wholly owned subsidiary of LCC and Basic Chemical Solutions Far East Pte Ltd., for the supply of Liquid Caustic Soda effective January 19, 2006.

***

BANK of the Philippine Islands declared a cash dividend of P0.90 per share to all outstanding common shares, payable to stockholders of record 15 days after receipt of Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas approval.

***

ASIAN Terminals Inc. announced the resignation of Mark Anthony Ripka as Senior Vice President for Container Terminal Division to replace him is Mr. Dallas Hampton.

***

AYALA Land Inc. declared a regular cash dividend of P0.03 per share to all outstanding common shares. Record date for stockholders entitled to the cash dividend is on Nov 16 and payment is on Jan 6, 2006. The stock and transfer books of the corporation will be closed for the transfer of shares from Dec 13 to 16.

Compiled by: Chona Galang, PDI Research

CURRENCIES

November 17, 2005 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.856531	1.000000	54.6300
Japan	Yen	0.007191	0.008396	0.4587
United Kingdom	Pound	1.470407	1.716700	93.7833
Hongkong	Dollar	0.110443	0.128942	7.0441
Switzerland	Franc	0.646536	0.754831	41.2364
Canada	Dollar	0.717964	0.838223	45.7921
Singapore	Dollar	0.502984	0.587234	32.0806
Australia	Dollar	0.626394	0.731315	39.9517
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.272267	2.652872	144.9264
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.228403	0.266660	14.5676
Brunei	Dollar	0.501511	0.585514	31.9866
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000086	0.000100	0.0055
Thailand	Baht	0.020825	0.024313	1.3282
UAE	Dirham	0.233209	0.272272	14.8742
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.167500	63.7805
Argentina	Peso	0.290843	0.339559	18.5501
Brazil	Real	0.388467	0.453535	24.7766
Denmark	Kroner	0.134091	0.156551	8.5524
India	Rupee	0.018730	0.021867	1.1946
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.226655	0.264620	14.4562
Mexico	New Peso	0.080282	0.093729	5.1204
New Zealand	Dollar	0.586906	0.685213	37.4332
Norway	Kroner	0.128039	0.149486	8.1664
Pakistan	Rupee	0.014311	0.016708	0.9128
South Africa	Rand	0.126809	0.148049	8.0879
Korea	Won	0.000826	0.000964	0.0527
Sweden	Kroner	0.103967	0.121381	6.6310
Syria	Pound	0.016500	0.019264	1.0524
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.025506	0.029778	1.6268
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000399	0.000466	0.0255

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Lorenzos attempt last-ditch Del Monte defense

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

THE LORENZOS OF DEL MONTE ARE holding talks with an "Indian-Chinese" food conglomerate to oppose what is shaping up as a hostile takeover by the First Pacific Group of the food-and-beverage company, according to the pro-Lorenzo grapevine.

The decision was reached during a family council among the eight Lorenzo siblings and the Lorenzo matriarch the other day, given the Dec. 1 deadline to match the general tender offer made by First Pacific.

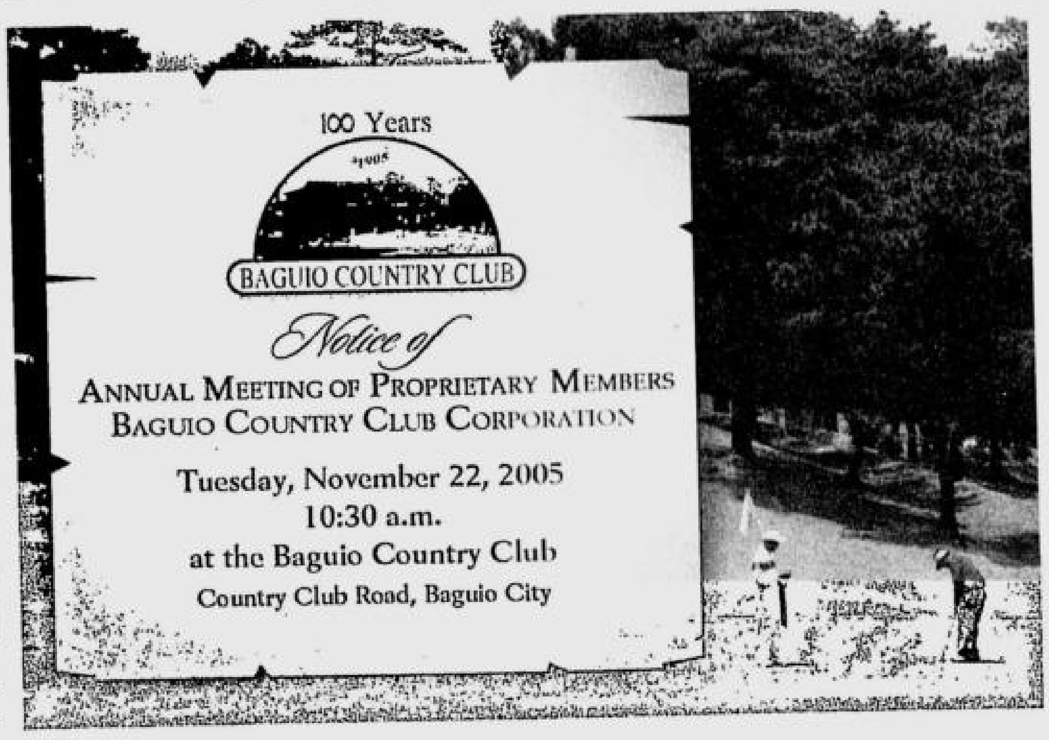
The family meeting was held after First Pacific chair Manuel V. Pangilinan met twice with Martin Lorenzo, chair of the Lorenzo holding company, Macondray and Co. Inc, and Lorenzo emerging "disturbed" by the lack of details of the takeover plan, especially in regard to the Bukidnon plantations that Del Monte and the Lorenzos have long-standing supply and purchase agreements.

"I don't think the concept of working together has been discussed," Lorenzo told reporters Wednesday, in answer to a question about a possible alliance with the Lorenzos and First Pacific.

Lorenzo even volunteered that both he and Pangilinan were Wharton graduates, in addition to both being patrons of the luckless Ateneo basketball team.

In conjunction with the general tender offer, First Pacific has announced a

COCKTALES/ B5



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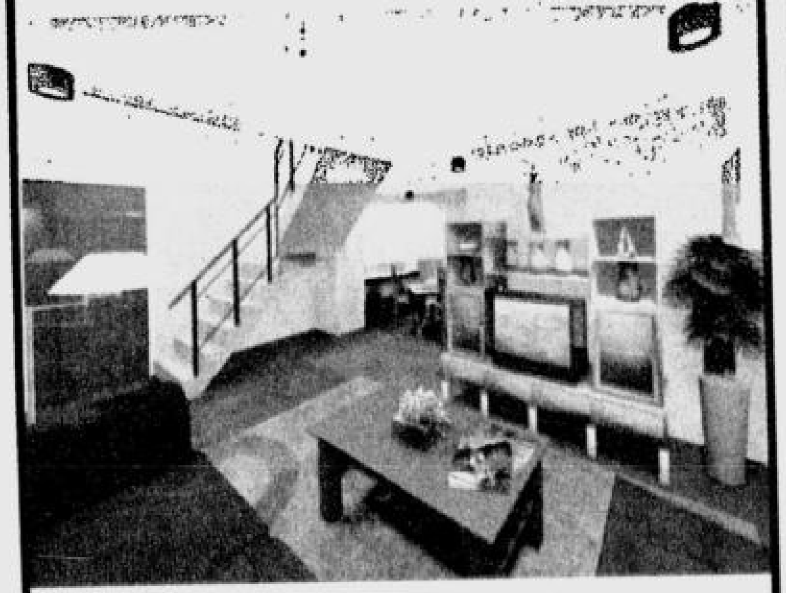

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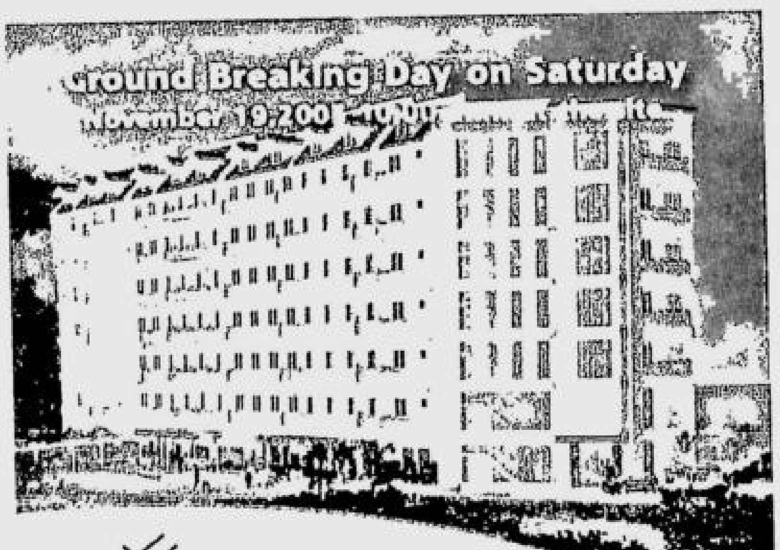

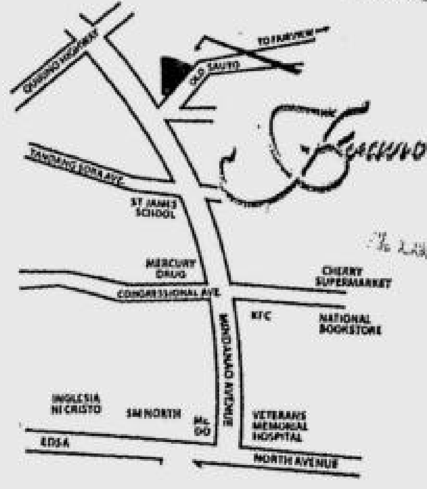

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Cathay Land spending P3.1B on 5 property projects in Sta. Rosa

By Ronnel W. Domingo

REAL ESTATE DEVELOPER Cathay Land Inc. is launching five projects worth P3.1 billion that will be built over the next two years in Sta. Rosa, Laguna.

Company president Jeffrey T. Ng said in a briefing that pre-selling of lots and units in two condominiums and a themed subdivision would start in the next few weeks.

"The anchor project of our 250-hectare South Forbes Golf City is the 80-hectare South Forbes Golf and Leisure Club that we would launch on Wednesday," Ng said.

The Cathay Land chief explained that the firm's other projects would follow in the wake of developing the P500-million, 18-hole golf complex.

"We will follow this up in December with the launching of the first of three buildings of the P600-million Golf View Terraces (condominium)," Ng said.

Another condominium project is the twin-tower, P500 million Esplanade.

Also, Cathay Land would start pre-selling units in the P500-million Tokyo Mansions, which is the first of the firm's themed subdivisions.

Similar projects in the planning stage are the Beijing Mansions and the Windsor Manors.

"Once we have finished developing the golf (facility) we will start building the P1-billion Astoria Plaza Sta. Rosa," Ng said.

The full-service hotel will have 250 rooms geared mainly for expatriates and visiting corporate executives working in the various export processing companies in the nearby technology parks.

"We are now just awaiting the Environmental Clearance Certificate to start construction of the South Forbes Golf Club, so that our investors and residents can start enjoying their free golf membership at no activation fee," Ng remarked.

"All of these investments are targeted at making South Forbes a world-class resort city with modern conveniences that promote a quality lifestyle for our residents," he added.

Ng said Cathay Land was looking at conducting an initial public offering within five years of between 20 and 30 percent of the firm's shares to raise funds for projects and the purchase of additional land.

He said Cathay Land was set to invest a total of P5.25 billion to build a master-planned, self-sustaining city in the Metro Sta. Rosa area.

To lure multinationals and investors to the new city, Ng said Cathay Land would also develop ultra modern, sleek office buildings at the South Forbes Cyberpark.

"The cyber park will have 12 to 15 buildings initially, including a three-story call center facility that will be opening soon," he said.

Cathay Land is also developing South Forbes' own university belt where top schools such as Ateneo, La Salle, Brent and St. Scholastica's are already operating, Ng said.

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Decline in local petroleum prices looms

From page B1

tional prices started to decline, giving local oil firms some leeway to bring their prices down.

According to data from the Department of Energy, the regional benchmark Dubai crude had dropped to a November average of $52.13 a barrel from $53.96 in October.

The price of unleaded gasoline based on the Mean of Platts Singapore (MOPS) benchmark for refined petroleum products had also declined to a Nov. 1-16 average of $62.41 a barrel from the October average of $69.10.

MOPS-based diesel has also fallen significantly to an average of $65.28 a barrel in the first 16 days of the month from $76.08 in last month.

Since the start of the month, oil firms have thrice reduced gasoline prices by a total of P1.85 a liter and diesel and kerosene prices by a total of P1.60 a liter.

As international oil prices continued to slide, Lotilla said any more mitigating measures for socially sensitive products such as diesel were no longer being considered at the moment.

He had earlier said that even though world oil prices had started to soften, the Department of Energy would continue to be in discussion with the Department of Finance on the possibility of further reducing tariffs on diesel and other socially sensitive fuels.

He said this mitigation measure would be triggered in the event of a sudden surge in prices in the coming months, particularly with the advent of winter in the northern hemisphere.

Diesel is usually used as a heating fuel, so prices traditionally surge during the winter months.

Right now, though, he said prices had gone down enough to allow the government to defer any more mitigating measures, despite the recent implementation of the VAT.

Premium unleaded gasoline now retails at between P37.29 and P38.25 a liter, diesel at between P30.94 and P32.26 a liter, kerosene at between P31.08 and P35.20 a liter.

October …

From page B1

the January-to-October period. The BOC was still short by P8.9 billion.

But while the two major collecting agencies might miss their full-year collection targets, the government still expects to meet its revenue goals for the year as other revenue sources are seen to generate much more than expected.

The Bureau of Treasury surpassed its collection target for the October, generating P6 billion in revenues compared with the program of only P2.9 billion. For the first 10 months of the year, the Treasury has already collected P60 billion, or P29 billion more than its target of only P31 billion.

National Treasurer Omar Cruz said the government was in a very comfortable fiscal position and likely to achieve a full-year deficit that would be much lower than programmed. He said the Treasury was expected to continue posting excesses in revenue contributions.

Meanwhile, Teves announced that the government would implement the 2-percent increase in the VAT rate on Feb. 1, 2006, instead of Jan. 1. The one-month delay in the implementation of the VAT rate adjustment, which is provided for in the recently implemented VAT Reform Law, was due to a time lag in the release of economic data necessary for the implementation of the higher rate.

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SCHEDULE OF SELECTED EVENTS

Sport	Date	Venues
Arnis	Dec 1 to Dec 4	Emilio Aguinaldo College, Ermita, Manila
Athletics	Nov 27 to Nov 30 and Dec 4	Track and Field Stadium, RMSC, Manila/ Macapagal Blvd., Pasay City
Badminton	Nov 28 to Dec 3	Philsports Multi Sports Complex, Pasic City
Baseball	Nov 28 to Dec 4	Baseball Stadium, Rizal Memorial Sports Complex, Manila
Bodybuilding	Dec 2 to Dec 4	GSIS Teatro, Pasay City
Bowling	Nov 28 to Dec 4	Pearl Bowling Center, Paranaque City
Cycling *MTB*	Nov 28 to Nov 29	Ramon M. Durano Sports Complex, Danao City
Dancesport	Nov 27	Waterfront Hotel, Lahug, Cebu City
Gymnastics	Nov 29 to Dec 5	Rizal Memorial Basketball Coliseum
Judo	Dec 1 to Dec 4	Mandaue Coliseum, Mandaue City
Karatedo	Nov 27 to Nov 29	Mandaue Coliseum, Mandaue City
Muay	Dec 1 to Dec 4	GSIS Gym, Pasay City
Pencak Silat	Nov 30 to Dec 4	Cebu Coliseum, Cebu City
Taekwondo	Nov 28 to Nov 30	Cuneta Astrodome, Pasay City
Sepak Takraw	Nov 27 to Dec 4	University of San Carlos Gym, Cebu City
Swimming	Nov 29 to Dec 4	Trace College, Los Baños, Laguna
Volleyball	Nov 28 to Dec 2	University of St. La Salle Grounds, Bacolod City

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WTO guidance from global publications

COMMENTARY

By Ernesto M. Ordoñez

DURING A PERIOD OF SEVEN days this month, guidance for our government negotiators on the coming World Trade Organization (WTO) December meeting can be obtained from three international publications.

Last Nov. 8, the Financial Times based in the United Kingdom published a letter signed by 61 chief executives of the largest multinational corporations. It urged a swift conclusion to the WTO negotiations. On Nov. 11, the Philippine Daily Inquirer published an article written by World Bank president Paul Wolfowitz. It was entitled "How to make Doha succeed."

On Nov. 14, US-based Fortune magazine published an interview with Amartya Sen, 1998 Nobel Prize awardee for economics. It discussed solutions to address poverty across the globe.

Making Doha succeed

Doha is the place where the WTO members decided that development, not just trade for trade's sake, should be the focus of the next round of WTO negotiations.

Wolfowitz wrote: "The Doha development round of trade talks will be judged by one simple test: Does it enable people in poor countries to sell more of their goods overseas, creating more jobs, and lifting their incomes?"

He emphasizes the need for developed countries to bring down their tariff barriers, which is a laudable objective. In conclusion, he states: "The Doha development round must succeed, and success means that developing countries have greater access to global markets."

We generally agree with the above point of view. But that is only half of the picture. The other half is that developed countries insist that they will not bring down their tariffs unless developing countries do the same.

On the surface, this sounds reasonable. But when we consider leveling the playing field, we should include the totality of government support. This is made up of both tariffs and subsidies.

For agriculture, developed countries have massive subsidies (e.g. in 2000, the subsidy levels were $24.8 billion for the US and $73.2 billion for the European Union), while developing countries have very minimal ones (for the same year, the Philippines had $300 million). Therefore, forcing developing countries to decrease their tariffs without the developed countries appropriately decreasing their subsidies is unfair and unjust.

If this happens, the net result will be that poverty will increase instead of decrease. While there may be some winners who will be able to penetrate a few developed country markets, there will be billions of losers coming from the already poor people that will lose their livelihood from unfairly subsidized imports.

Corporate chief executives

The open letter signed by chief executives of 61 multinational corporations states: "Multilateral initiatives to liberalize world trade and improve market access for goods and services are a strong driving force for global economic growth, job creation, and wider consumer choice, as well as keeping in check the ever present threat of protectionism."

One may misinterpret this to mean that any trade will automatically mean economic growth. However, the information provided by the Center for Economic Policy Research in the table puts this into question: *(See table at right.)*

Latin America shows the most dramatic reversal of fortunes. Many attribute this to the fact that from 1980 to 2000, Latin America undertook unilateral and very rapid liberalization across the board.

These years constituted a period of accelerated trade liberalization, where the average contribution of trade to gross domestic products went from 40 percent to almost 60 percent (International Labor Organization 2004). There appears to be no strong correlation between growth and increased trade flows. The evidence shows growth happens only if a specific country's economy is strong enough to benefit from the trade.

Recipe for development

Nobel Prize awardee Amartya Sen's views can guide our government negotiators so that they keep sustainable development, rather than just trade, as their main objective for the next WTO round. In combating poverty and enhancing human security, Sen cites two requirements: "a clear focus on human lives," and "an appreciation of the role of society and of social arrangements in making human lives more secure in a constructive way."

Gross national product and volume of foreign trade are helpful development indicators. But Sen says that "their value must depend on what they do to the lives and freedoms of the people involved." (see www.time.com/principalvoices).

This then is the bottom line: the success or failure of the WTO negotiations will depend on "what it does to our lives and freedoms," especially the many poor in our agricultural sector. On the surface, trade looks good and protectionism looks bad. But in a different context, unfair trade will cause poverty and justified protectionism against subsidized imports will help our people survive.

We want the WTO negotiation to succeed, but only if it truly follows the Doha development spirit. But if it will cause more harm than good, then no deal is better than a bad deal.

We are grateful that the Department of Agriculture also takes this stand and has officially recognized key Alyansa Agrikultura farmer leaders to give inputs during the negotiations. If you wish to help, please contact one such officially recognized leader, Arsenio Tanchuling, at (0920)9244302. He will be in Hong Kong to fight for your views on fair, rather than free, trade.

(The author is Agriwatch chair; former Cabinet secretary for Presidential Flagship Programs and Projects, and former undersecretary for agriculture, and trade and industry. For inquiries and suggestions, email agriwatchphil@yahoo.com or telefax 8516635)

AVERAGE GROWTH OF 175 COUNTRIES

Country groupings	1960-79	1980-2000
Higher Income Per Capita	2.5-3%	2.5-3%
Lowest Income Per Capita	1.7%	1.7%

Note: Latin America 4% 0.6%

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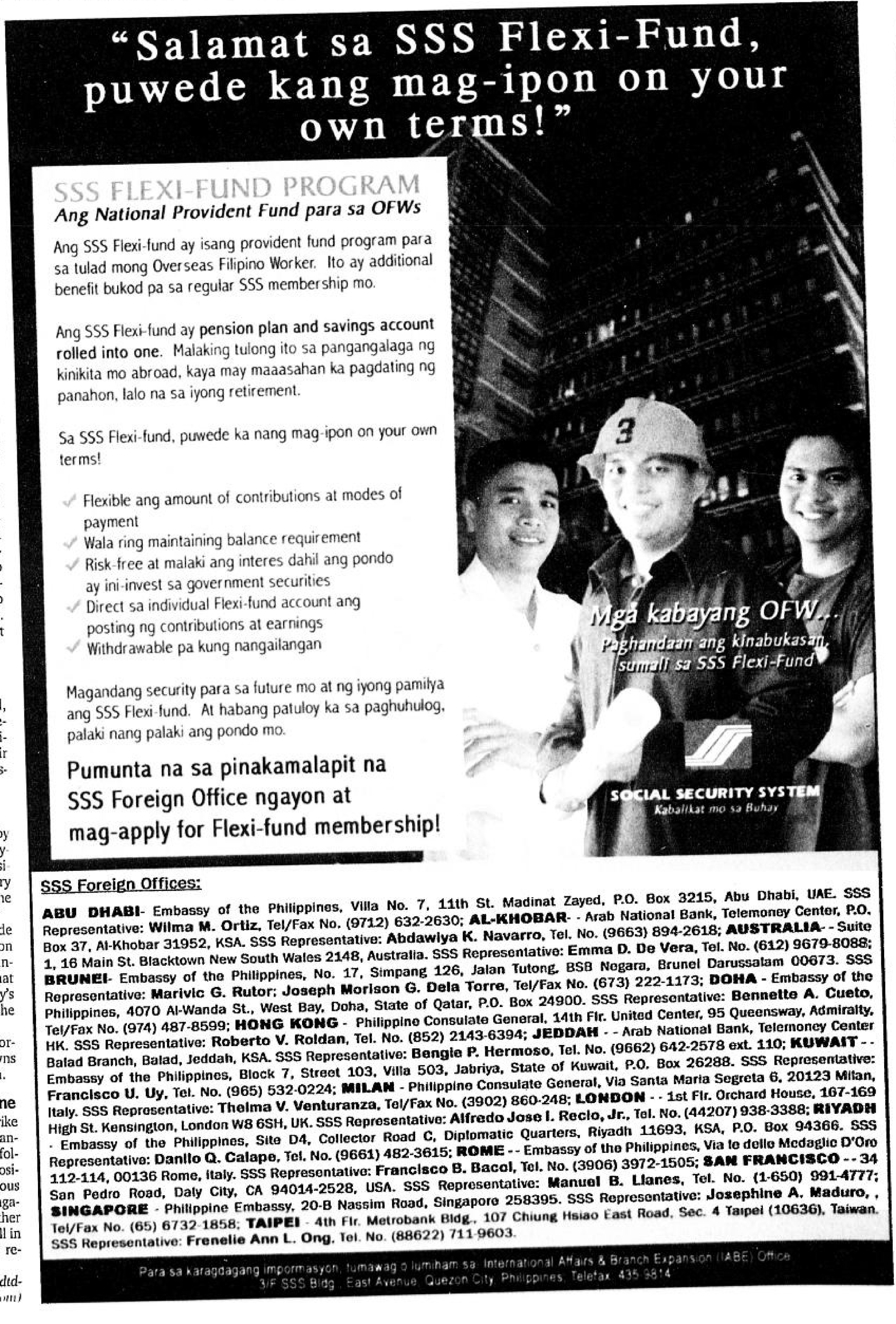
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Cocktales

From page B3

conditional sale agreement to acquire the nearly 40-percent stake of the troubled Italian food conglomerate, Cirio, in Del Monte Pacific, provided that the Lorenzos waive their preemptive rights equivalent to the family's 21-percent stake in Del Monte.

Before the First Pacific offer, the Cirio block was nearly acquired by taipan Lucio Tan in April, only to fail following disagreement over sale terms, especially on the amount of cash the taipan would have to shell out for a mandatory general tender offer that the taipan's financial advisers had initially thought their principal could escape.

It was not immediately clear why the Lorenzos sat out on the Cirio sale, which has been on the market for nearly two years now, only to rally with an 11th hour counteroffer with a putative new principal.

First Pacific has estimated it would need $150 million, in addition to the $164 million in cash for the Cirio stake, to fund the general offer.

According to the pro-Lorenzo grapevine, there is a continuing debate within the family as to the prudence of raising borrowed money to counter the First Pacific offer, especially in the light of the aggressive expansion of the family's Pancake House chain.

But, as Martin himself hinted, the Del Monte equation "goes beyond money," the Bukidnon business having been a legacy of their late dad, the inter-collegiate basketball legend Moro Lorenzo.

Money-go-round

- THE US fund managed by Jaime Gonzales is looking at buying into Bank of Commerce, possibly through the STI stake as entry point. Gonzales, however, said the market rumor was "not correct."
- THE CENTRAL Azucarera de Tarlac is facing trading suspension today for failing to submit the annual report for the fiscal year that ended June 30 and the company's failure to pay the penalties for the reportorial violation.

Controlled by the family of former President Aquino, CAT owns the strife-torn Hacienda Luisita.

Heard through the grapevine

AFTER the failed transport strike on Monday, the Hyatt 10 held another tearful presentation the following day. Yesterday, the opposition in the Senate, simultaneous with the ongoing "people's/kangaroo" inquiry, reopened yet another series of the "Garci' hearings, all in the hope of building up mass resentment for a Nov. 30 push.

(Email: cocktales_pdi@pldtdsl.net or cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com)

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NOTICE OF SEARCH AND CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

The Board of Trustees of the Batanes State College formally and publicly announces that the **Search for Presidency** of the **BATANES STATE COLLEGE** is now open. Interested applicants and/or nominees are invited to send their formal applications to the Search Committee chaired by Atty. Lilia S. Garcia.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:
- Must be a Filipino citizen
- Preferably a holder of a doctoral degree
- Preferably between 40 to 60 years old but not more than 65 at the time of application
- Must be morally upright
- With Recognized leadership in his/her profession in the academe or industry
- With at least five (5) years of managerial/administrative experience

In addition to the above-mentioned qualifications, the applicants should make a full disclosure of all administrative, criminal, and/or civil cases filed in any court in the Philippines and are required to submit the following clearances:

- National Bureau of Investigation
- Sandiganbayan
- Civil Service Commission and/or Certificate of No Pending Administrative Case issued by the Administrative Officer of present employer
- Previous Employer

Formal application addressed to the Search Committee should be accompanied with:

- Detailed curriculum vitae and certified supporting documents
- Proposed Vision, Mission and Thrusts of the College
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Interested applicants and/or those nominated for the position are requested to submit six (6) sets of their formal application and certified supporting documents on or before 31 January 2006 to:

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NOTICE OF INVITATION

The Municipal Government of Baliuag intends to finance an integrated Solid Waste Management System including a Materials Recovery Facility utilizing proceeds raised from the issuance of the Baliuag Star Bonds. In this connection, the Municipality requires the services of a Guarantor, who shall guarantee the payment and redemption of the Bonds to the public; an Underwriter, who shall underwrite the sale and distribution of the Baliuag Star Bond; and a Trustee, who shall act as Trustee Bank and paying agent. Other participating underwriter and/or selling agents may also form part of this activity in order to sell the bonds to the public on a firm basis as may be agreed upon.

In view thereon, the Municipal Government of Baliuag invites all interested parties to submit their sealed proposal for Underwriter and Trustee Bank services at the office of the BAC Secretariat at Baliuag Municipal Building, B. S. Aquino Ave., Bagong Nayon, Baliuag, Bulacan not later than 12:00 noon on November 29, 2005. For purposes hereof, the Terms of Reference and Guidelines are available for issuance for prospective bidders upon payment of non-refundable amount of P1,000.00 and submission of letter of intent.

The Municipality of Baliuag reserves the right to reject any or all proposal to waive any infirmities in the proposal received and/or accept offers for the above-mentioned services, which are complying and most advantageous to the Municipality of Baliuag.

For further details, please see BAC Secretariat.

(Sgd.) **REMIGIO R. VIOLA**
Chairman, BAC

(PDI-Nov. 18 & 21, 2005)

ORDINANCE NO. ______________

AN ORDINANCE REQUIRING ALL BUSINESS ESTABLISHMENTS, INCLUDING BUILDING AND LOT OWNERS, LOCATED ALONG NATIONAL ROADS, CITY STREETS AND ALLEYS TO PROVIDE PROPER AND ADEQUATE LIGHTING OUTSIDE THEIR PREMISES, PROVIDING PENALTY THEREOF.

PREAMBLE

WHEREAS, the City of Manila, being the premier City of the Philippines should be well lighted;

WHEREAS, however, with the progress being experienced by a growing City wherein vertical construction have taken place, the light offered by natural resources, as well as light from lamp posts are being obstructed by high-rise buildings including the LRT elevated railways which is in the middle of streets;

WHEREAS, the inadequacy in light is one of the major factors in the rising incidence of criminality in the City, not to mention vehicular accidents;

WHERAS, only through adequate lights can we minimize if not eradicate crimes attributed to darkness, as proper lighting would be deterrent factor to would-be criminals;

WHEREAS, considering that establishments and building owners are contributory to the obstruction of lights from natural sources, thereby creating darkness, it is therefore proper and obligatory that they should also contribute to remedial measures to eliminate darkness by installation of artificial lights outside their premises: NOW, THEREFORE,

Be it ordained by the City Council of Manila, THAT:

SECTION 1. All business establishments situated at the ground floor of main and auxiliary streets including alleys are required to install outside their premises fluorescent or daylight lamp or bulb equivalent to at least 40 watts illumination.

SEC. 2. Establishments with more than 4 meters frontage shall install additional 40 watts of lighting for every 4 meters thereafter.

SEC. 3. Every building owner in the City of Manila is required to install outside their premises at every corner of their building adequate lighting with corresponding wattage as specified below:

a) one-storey buiding - 100 watts or its equivalent brightness
b) two- to four-storey - 200 watts
c) five- to eight-storey - 500 watts
d) nine and above - 1000 watts

SEC. 4. Every vacant lot owner in the City of Manila is required to install at every 6 meters frontage and every corner of their property one lamp post with incandescent lamp or bulb equivalent to at least 100 watts of illumination: *PROVIDED, That* the building/lot owners shall be responsible for the maintenance of existing posts.

SEC. 5. The lights should be opened every night from dusk to dawn.

SEC. 6. Any establishment, building, and vacant lot owners found guilty of violating any provision of this Ordinance shall be fined in the amount of ONE THOUSAND PESOS (PhP 1,000.00) per bulb but not to exceed FIVE THOUSAND PESOS (Php 5,000.00) or imprisonment of not more than six (6) months or both at the discretion of the court.

SEC. 7. This Ordinance shall take effect 30 days upon its approval.

Enacted by the City Council of Manila at its regular session today.

Approved by His Honor, the Mayor, on

APPROVED:

JOSE L. ATIENZA, JR.
Mayor
City Manila

DANILO B. LACUNA
Vice-Mayor and Presiding Officer
City Council, Manila

ATTESTED:

EMMANUEL R. SISON
Secretary to the Mayor

RODOLFO F. LAPID
Secretary to the City Council

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ILT:acl/rmd/jlc

CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that the City Council ordered the publication of the above proposed Ordinance during its regular session held on August 30, 2005, pursuant to the provision of Section 17, Article III of R.A. 409, as amended, otherwise known as the Revised Charter of the City of Manila.

(Sgd.) **RODOLFO F. LAPID**
City Government Dept. Head III
(Secretary to the City Council)

(PDI-Nov. 18, 2005)

TransCo
National Transmission Corporation
South Luzon Operation and Maintenance
Tel. No.: (02) 5206776; (02) 9814595/9814539/9814576/9814577/9814578 LOC. 4002; (049) 4114500 LOC. 4002

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
AD NO. TRANSCO 2005-12A

The National Transmission Corporation, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder requirements:

SCHEDULE	PR NUMBER	ITEM DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY	APPROVED BUDGET
D1	ADM-05-12043	FORKLIFT TRUCK	1 UNIT	P 2,800,000.00
D2	BAT-05-200	CROSS-ARM, STEEL (VARIOUS SIZES)	1,245 PCS	4,995,000.00
D3	BAT-05-224	OVERHEAD FAULT INDICATOR	90 PCS	3,150,000.00
D4	3LAG-05-12205	FAULT INDICATOR	84 PCS	2,940,000.00
D5	CAV-05-389	TRANSFORMER TEMPERATURE MONITOR	2 UNITS	6,000,000.00
D6	CAV-05-417	WEDGE TYPE CONNECTOR	3000 PCS	5,400,000.00

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking similar projects with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed items for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is as follows:

Activities	Date/Time (D1-D6)
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	Nov. 14 - Dec. 1, 2005
2. Pre-bid Conference	November 17, 2005 9:00AM
3. Opening of Bids	December 02, 2005 9:00 AM
4. Deadline for Submission of Bids at the OAVP Conference Room	December 02, 2005 9:00 AM

Bid Documents will be available to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of P500.00 minimum, or 0.01% of the ABC whichever is higher, per bidding schedule to the National Transmission Corporation Cashier. Complete set of Bid Documents may be obtained from the BAC Secretariat/MMS, Administration Division, SLO&M, San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna.

The National Transmission Corporation assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

The National Transmission Corporation reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any required formality or defect therein, and to make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the government.

TRANSCO-South Luzon's other requirements are posted at the DBM Website: www.procurementservice.net.

(Sgd.) R. B. VERGARA
Chairman, BAC

(PDI--Nov. 18, 2005)

DAVAO CITY WATER DISTRICT
J.P. Laurel Ave., Davao City
Tel. No. 221-9400

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

1 The *Davao City Water District* with the *Approved Budget for 2005* intends to apply the sum of *Two Hundred Thirteen Thousand One Hundred Fifty Pesos (P213,150.00)* being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Supply and delivery of *DCWD T-Shirts*. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

2 The *Davao City Water District* now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for:

1 Lot/Package - Supply and delivery of 609 pcs. DCWD T-Shirts ABC: *Php213,150.00*

Delivery of the GOODS is required by *December 28, 2005* The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB

3 Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsiveness Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure

4 Interested Bidders may obtain further information from *Davao City Water District* and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 a.m. up to 5:00 p.m.

5 A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of non-refundable fee in the amount of *P1,500.00/package*. The method of payment will be on Cash Basis. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

6 The *Davao City Water District* will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on *November 25, 2005 at 9:00 A.M. at DCWD BAC-A Secretariat Office, J.P. Laurel Ave., Bajada, Davao City*

7 Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before *December 7, 2005 at 9:00 A.M.* All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form of *cash or Manager's check* and in the amount of *Php 2,131.50*. Late Bids shall not be accepted

8 Bid opening shall be on *December 7, 2005 at 9:00 A.M.* at *DCWD BAC-A Secretariat Office, J.P. Laurel Ave., Bajada, Davao City* Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidder's representatives who choose to attend at the address below

9 The *Davao City Water District* reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at anytime prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders

Davao City Water District
BAC-A
J.P. Laurel Ave., Bajada, Davao City
Tel. No. 221-9400 (8000)
E-mail add dcwd@davao-water.gov.ph
Fax No. 224-5392
Website www.davao-water.gov.ph

(Sgd.) VIRGINIA S. MARIMON
BAC-A Chairwoman

(PDI - Nov. 11 & 18, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
PHILIPPINE ECONOMIC ZONE AUTHORITY
MACTAN ECONOMIC ZONE I
Lapu-lapu City
Tel. Nos. : 3400590, 3400594, 3400591
Telefax No : 3402949

Proposed Site Dev. at PTC MEZ I

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The PHILIPPINE ECONOMIC ZONE AUTHORITY, through its MEZ Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for eligibility and if found eligible, to bid for the hereunder contract:

Name of Contract	Proposed Site Development at the Philippine Tonan Corporation's Leased Lot at the MEZ I and Installation of Drainage System on Lot A-1 at the MEZ I
Location	MEZ I, Lapu-lapu City
Brief Description	Supply of Labor, Materials, Equipment and Supervision for Proposed Site Development at the PTC's leased lot and Installation of Drainage System on Lot A-1 at the MEZ I.
Approved Budget for the Contract	P5,044,664.53
Contract Duration	150 calendar days

Prospective bidders should possess a valid PCAB License applicable to the contract, have completed similar contract with a value of at least 50% of the ABC, and have key personnel and own equipment listed below available for the prosecution of the contract:

– Dump truck	– 2 units
– Excavator (Breaker/Backhoe)	– 2 units – CAT 320 or equivalent equipment capacity
– Pay Loader	– 2 units – TCM 865 or equivalent equipment capacity

The BAC will use non-discretionary pass/fail criteria in the Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids. The BAC will conduct post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The schedule of BAC activities is as follows:

BAC Activities	Schedule
1. Receipt from prospective bidders of Letters of Intent (LOI) including Application for Eligibility	November 18-30, 2005
2. Issuance of Eligibility forms	November 18-30, 2005
3. Receipt of Eligibility Requirements Deadline	December 1, 2005 5:00 p.m.
4. Notice of Result of Eligibility Check	December 7, 2005
5. Issuance of Bid Documents	December 8-12, 2005
6. Pre-bid Conference	January 12, 2006 2:00 p.m.
7. Receipt & Opening of Bids	January 26, 2006 2:00 p.m.

The BAC will issue to prospective bidders Eligibility Forms at MEZ I BAC Secretariat, 2nd Floor, PEZA Administration Bldg., MEZ I, Lapu-lapu City upon submission of a LOI, and upon payment of a non-refundable amount of P100.00 to the PEZA Cashier. Prospective bidders shall submit the Eligibility Requirements to BAC at the said address. They may also obtain the results of the Eligibility Check by the BAC at the same address.

The BAC will issue Bidding Documents only to bidders declared by the BAC to be eligible for the bidding upon payment of a non-refundable amount of P2,500.00 to the PEZA Cashier.

The PEZA reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to contract award without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders and assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

Approved by:

(Sgd.) **ROLANDO Q. PATALINJUG**
MEZ, BAC Vice-Chairperson

(PDI–Nov. 18 & 28, 2005)

National Power Corporation

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

Republic of the Philippines

NPC, PSD 2005-015

VARIOUS EQUIPMENT, SPARE PARTS, WORK ORDERS INTENDED FOR NPC MAJOR POWER PLANTS

The NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION, through its approved Corporate Budget of CY 2005 intends to apply the sum of (see schedule under 9) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract as listed below. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected/disqualified at Bid opening.

2. The NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for GOODS as listed below. Delivery of the GOODS are required by the date indicated in the bid documents. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, Instruction to Bidders (ITB).

3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino Citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights to privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138) Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to post qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who shall determine as such during the post-qualification procedure.

4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:30 AM to 3:30 PM, Monday to Friday. However, issuance of Bidding Documents shall start on November 18, 2005 from 8:30 AM to 11:30 AM, Monday to Friday. No Bid Documents will be issued on the date of bidding

5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount as listed below. The method of payment will be cash. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

6. The NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on the dates as listed below at National Power Corporation's available function rooms.

7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before the dates as listed below. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form of cash, certified check, cashiers check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit equivalent to one percent (1%) of the ABC; Bank guarantee equivalent to one and a half percent (1.5%) of the ABC, Surety bond equivalent to two and a half percent (2.5%) of the ABC, Foreign guarantee equivalent to one hundred percent (100%) of the ABC or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

8. Bid opening shall be on the dates as listed below at National Power Corporation's available function rooms. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidder's representatives who choose to attend at the address below.

9. ITEMS FOR BID

SCHEDULE NUMBER	PR NUMBER	ITEM DESCRIPTION	APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT	BID DOCS. PRICE
DATE OF RE-BIDDING / BIDDING : DECEMBER 14, 2005; 2:00 PM				
15A1	3MGM-05-182(RP)	J.O.-REPAIR/REHABILITATION OF AIR HANDLING OF UNITS OF PLANT C (PB2)	P 3,000,000.00	P 2,000.00
15A2	1 UAH-05-092 (ZC)	SUBMERSIBLE PUMP (PB2)	P 1,600,000.00	P 1,000.00
15A3	2BCF-05-507 (ZC)	FLEXIBLE BULK BAGS, LAMINATED W P.P. BAG W/ 1 PLY KRAFT, ARMOUR ROCKS & STONES (PB2)	P 8,190,000.00	P 3,000.00
15A4	1MCF-05-568 (LS)	HYDRAULIC TORQUE & TENSION TOOL	P 1,959,376.48	P 1,000.00
15A5	1MCF-05-605 (LS)	TUBE, AL-BRASS ANNEALED	P 8,800,000.00	P 3,000.00

NOTE : A Pre-Bidding Conference will be held at any available NPC Function Room on December 1, 2005 at 2:00 P.M.

10. The NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION
PROCUREMENT SERVICES DIVISION
MATERIALS MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT
Agham Road, cor. Quezon Avenue
Diliman, Quezon City
Tel No. +632 921 2818
rccardeno@napocor.gov.ph
Fax No +632 921 7908 / 921 3382
www.napocor.gov.ph

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE-PSD

(PDI – November 18, 2005)

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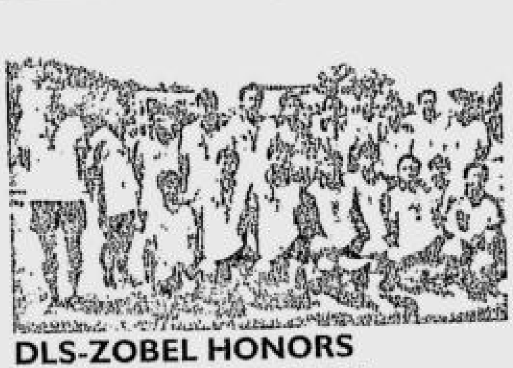

DLS-ZOBEL HONORS CHAMPION BOOTERS

De la Salle-Zobel congratulated the High School Selection (Candidates) last Nov. 11, for winning again the championship title in the recently-concluded Rizal Football Association (RIFA) Tournament staged at the Ateneo University grounds. Shown are: (standing from left) Lorenzo Quitiquit, Numeriano Dela Dingco, Carlo Iñigo, Pocholo Catahan, Nikko Que, Yannick Tuason, Carl Mamawal, Philip Gabriel, Jerome Mendoza, Marco Mansilla, JuanMig Gonzales; (front row from left) Diego Maderal, Larson Smit, David Singson, Nicholas Elegado, Arvin Marchan, Ernesto Gagto, Ira Salud, Ken Noda; (not in photo) Coach Hans Smit and Asst. Coach Dave Fegidero.

Tourist arrivals seen hitting 2.6M

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

THE DEPARTMENT of Tourism sees tourist arrivals growing at least 13 percent to 2.6 million this year from 2.3 million last year, with interest coming from Koreans as well as foreign passport holders from the United States and Canada.

Tourism regional director Louella Jurilla said during the Good News Kapihan at the Global Café in Makati yesterday that the Korean market was the fastest growing in the region.

"The (number of) Koreans (arriving here) are registering a healthy growth rate. In 2004, they already overtook Japan as the number two market, posting a growth of 18 percent," Jurilla said.

She said that based on data from the Bureau of Immigration, tourists from the US and Canada, which may also include Filipinos that hold foreign passports, will account for 19 percent or 500,000 of the 2.6 million projected tourist arrivals this year.

Jurilla noted that most Koreans—who belong to a younger bracket—visit the Philippines to learn English from Filipinos who are fluent in the language.

There are also Korean couples that frequent beaches like Boracay and resorts in Cebu.

Most tourists spend an average of $91 a day and stay for three to four days in the Philippines.

From January to September, the US topped tourist arrivals with 392,706, followed by Korea with 349,093 and Japan at 313,101, DOT data showed.

On the other hand, Filipinos that have acquired foreign citizenship spend an average of $51 a day but are more aggressive shoppers, Jurilla said.

Jurilla added that the DOT's budget for tourism promotion must be increased next year to maintain the inflow of tourists, especially from the key markets of Japan, China and Korea.

These efforts would also have to be supported by moves to strengthen domestic tourism by improving traffic, public works and highways, waste management or sanitation, utilities and other national services.

Last year's approved budget for the DOT was around P800 million, of which around 25 percent was spent on promotions.

The government has tried to beef up its promotional activities in four high-yielding markets: Korea, US, Canada and China.

In China for example, the DOT has been advertising the Philippines in the local language, and it has succeeded in bringing in visitors.

Aside from these markets, the DoT has also identified anchor destinations in the Philippines for domestic tourism. These are Metro Manila, Calauan, Clark-Subic, Baguio-Banawe, Cebu-Bohol, Ilocos and Calabarzon.

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Investments of Variable Life Insurance Contracts	Current Week Nov. 15, 2005	Last Week Nov. 08, 2005
Bond Fund - Peso	1.29205	1.28541
Managed Fund - Peso	1.41365	1.40336
Growth Fund - Peso	1.09474	1.07900
Bond Fund - US Dollar	1.1692	1.1576

* *Note These investments of variable life insurance contracts are not mutual funds Life insurance products are regulated by the Insurance Commission*

Investment Funds of Wealth Builder and Wealth Secure

	UNIT PRICES (in Php)	
	Nov. 14, 2005	Nov. 7, 2005
Fixed Income Fund	1.068490	1.064580
Balanced Fund	1.062333	1.053619
Equity Fund	1.049226	1.029260

These investment funds are specific to variable life insurance contracts and are not considered mutual funds. Life insurance products are regulated by the Insurance Commission.
The weekly unit prices are also available at www.insularlife.com.ph.

Use of hybrid rice increases

By Christine A. Gaylican

MORE FARMERS HAVE BEGUN USING hybrid rice technology as sales of its seeds have risen this year by over 20 percent, industry officials revealed.

Producers and distributors of hybrid rice seeds, led by SL Agritech Inc. and Bayer Crop Science Philippines, along with farmers' cooperatives, said in separate interviews that seed sales have been strong this year.

Hybrid rice seeds promise to increase yields from 4 metric tons to 9 metric tons per hectare. Seed company Bayer Crop Science Philippines estimated that sales of the company grew by at least 20 percent this year.

Bayer, which distributes the Bigante seeds, ranks as the third largest producer and seller of hybrid seeds.

"We felt a growth in sales as more farmers shifted to hybrid rice seeds because the changing weather conditions encouraged them to invest in good seeds," Bayer's Philippine BioScience manager Carlos Miguel Saplala said in an interview.

SL Agritech president and CEO Henry Lim Bon Liong said that, for his company, a 21-percent increase in sales has been attained in the first semester and could be exceeded by yearend.

According to a study done by the Department of Agriculture's regional offices, farmers surveyed nationwide reported that gross income obtained from planting SL Agritech's SL-8 hybrid rice variety averaged at P55,055 per hectare per harvest. Cultivating Bayer's Bigante seeds brings in an estimated P61,000 per hectare.

On the other hand, the average cost of production using these rice varieties range between P19,000 and P20,000 per hectare for each planting season.

The cultivation of hybrid rice seeds is expected to prop up the country's palay production. From a sluggish growth rate in the first semester, stronger palay production could push up the agriculture sector's output for the year, Agriculture Secretary Domingo F. Panganiban said in a separate interview.

"From 156,000 hectares planted with hybrid rice last year, the DA and private sector have set to cultivate the high yielding seeds on 240,000 hectares that could at least bring a million metric tons of palay to be harvested," Panganiban said.

He noted that the agency is still optimistic that the rice production target of 15.1 million tons could still be achieved by the end of the year.

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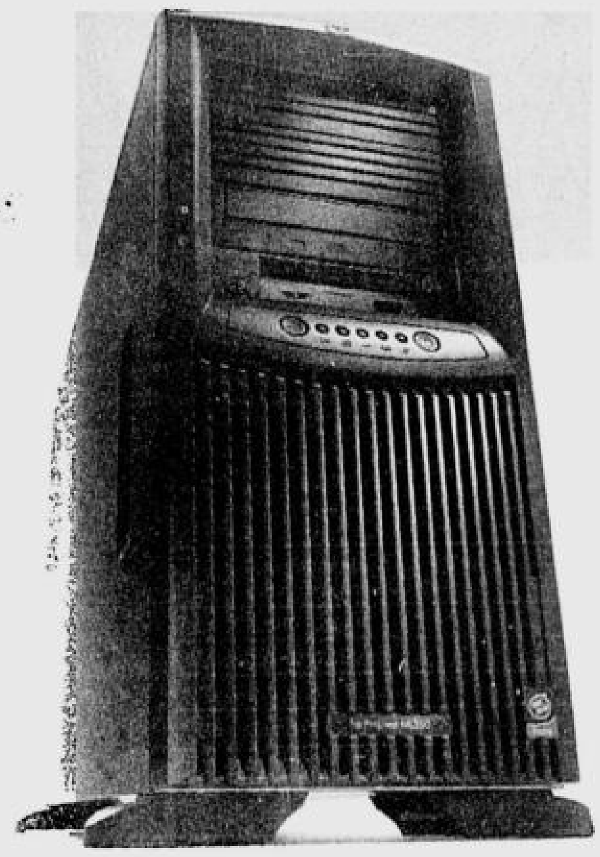

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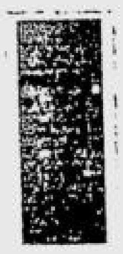

P155,000 | HP PROLIANT ML150 G2
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Also available:
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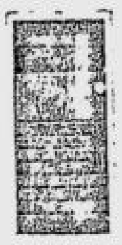

P67,000 | HP PROLIANT ML110 G3 SATA
- One Intel® Pentium® 4 Processor 630* (2MB L2 Cache, 3GHz, 800MHz FSB)
- 512MB DDRII memory (8GB Max)
- Two 80GB Serial ATA Hard Disk Drives

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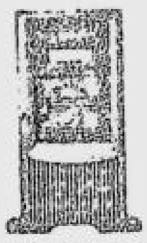
HP ProLiant ML110 G3 SCSI
- One Intel® Pentium® 4 Processor 630* (2MB L2 Cache, 3GHz, 800MHz FSB)
- 512MB DDRII Memory (8GB Max)
- Two 36GB Ultra320 SCSI Hard Disk Drives

P89,500



P275,000 | HP PROLIANT ML370 G4
- One 64-bit Intel® Xeon™ Processor (2 MB L2 cache, 3.60GHZ, 800MHz FSB) (up to 2 supported)
- 1GB DDR2 Memory (8GB Max)
- Two 72GB 15K RPM Ultra320 SCSI Hot Plug Hard Disk Drives

Also available:
HP ProLiant ML370 G4
- One 64-bit Intel® Xeon™ Processor (2 MB L2 cache, 3.60GHz, 800MHz FSB) (up to 2 supported)
- Two 72GB 10K RPM Ultra320 SCSI Hot Plug Hard Disk Drives

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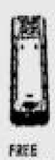

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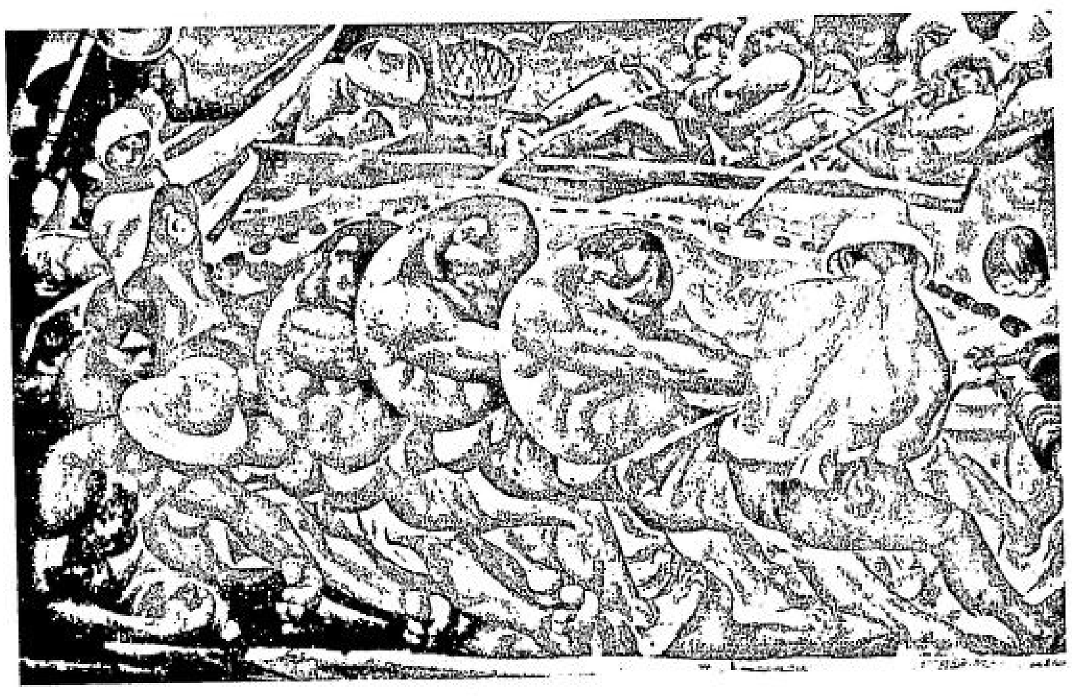

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CHRISTIE'S
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PLANTATION Bay believes in protecting the environment to improve quality of life

Cebu resort protects environment, people

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

PLANTATION BAY RESORT AND SPA IN CEBU has become a favorite destination in the Philippines of both locals and foreigners, especially Koreans and Japanese, because of its pristine natural environment.

CORPORATE CITIZEN

There are man-made lagoons, but Plantation Bay also covers mangrove farms and coral reefs ideal for snorkeling and scuba diving.

All the beauty, however, does not come by accident.

Realizing that the resort's popularity can only be sustained if its environment is protected, Plantation Bay has adopted an extensive environmental management program that covers everything from the proper treatment of its sewage to the helping of the neighboring barangays take care of their surroundings, too.

Ma. Lourdes Martinez, an architect by profession who was contracted by Plantation Bay to supervise its environmental management program, tells the INQUIRER that the resort has to do its share to protect the environment because it is in what is termed a "transition area."

\Transition, she says, because Plantation Bay is neither on land or sea, but on a little of both, thus is more vulnerable than other types of environment.

"That's why we can not only say marine preservation," Martinez said, "we have to take an integrated approach to environmental conservation."

Plantation Bay planted mangroves all around the resort for different fish to live in, as well as crabs and cooperates in all efforts to protect marine life and stabilize the coral reefs.

Since the resort opened in 1996, there has been a significant regeneration of coral reefs in Plantation Bay's part of Mactan Island.

Plantation Bay also makes sure that it will not be part of the island's environmental problems.

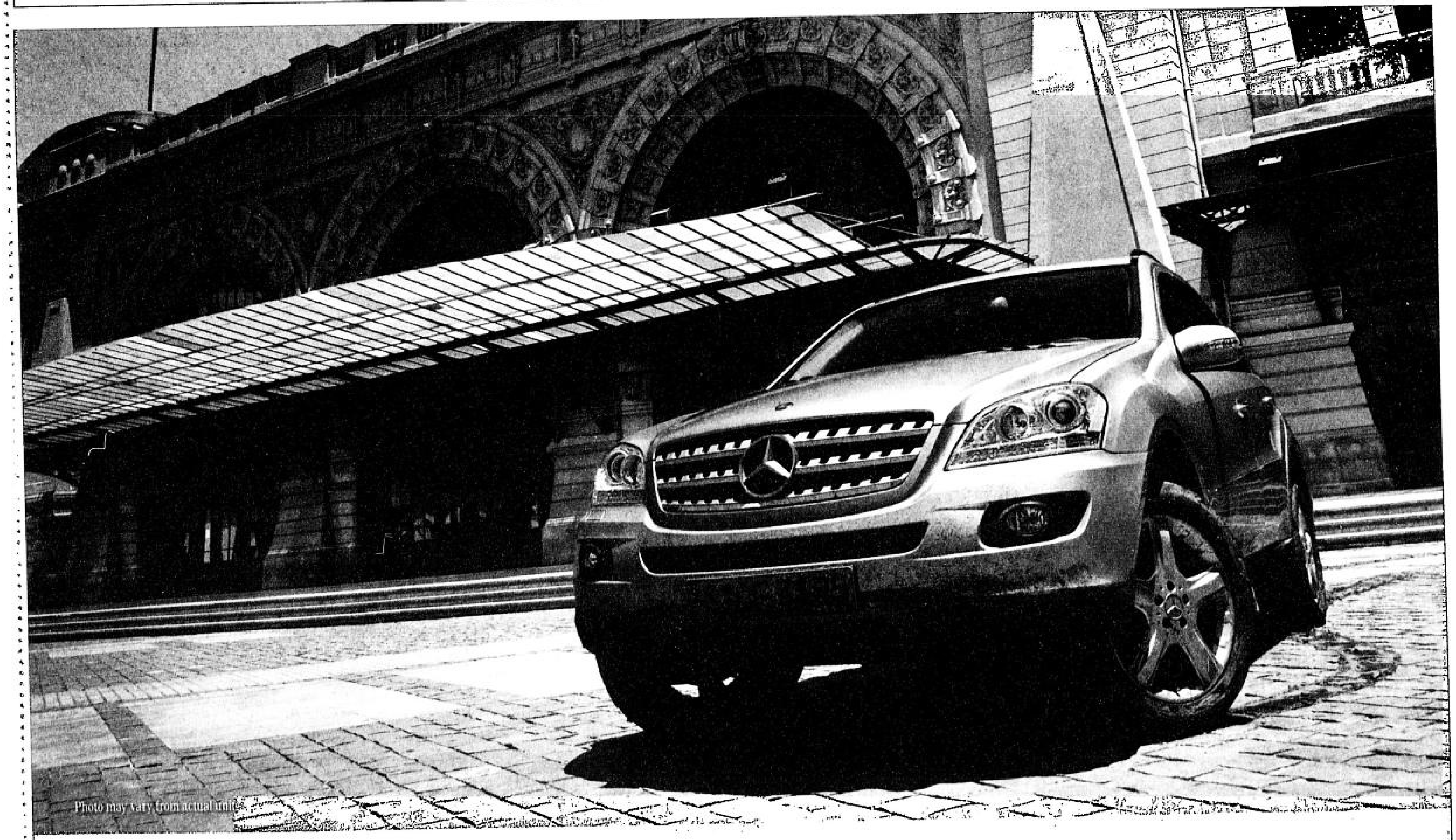
Martinez says Plantation Bay has never used pesticides on its surroundings, and all effluents from the kitchen to the rooms are treated. No waste is dumped into the sea.

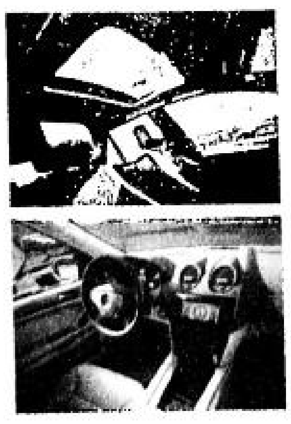
The resort's garbage is trucked to landfills, and some of the garbage is recycled as fish feed. Bottles and cans are separated and sold to recyclers.

It also grows some of its fish for restaurant use in fishponds within the hotel. It also uses its own seaweed and even engages in vermiculture to increase production of organic fertilizer.

Care for the environment was on the mind of the resort owners from the start of construction.

CEBU/ B9





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RP named best in microfinance

By Michelle V. Remo

THE PHILIPPINES HAS BEEN named the best at implementing microfinance programs to reduce poverty.

The Consultative Group to Assist the Poor (CGAP), a World-Bank assisted body advocating the development of microfinance, gave the award to the Philippines during the celebration of the International Year of Microcredit held at the United Nations' headquarters in New York City last Nov. 8.

The Philippines was chosen from among 100 countries implementing microfinance programs.

CGAP is a consortium of 28 multilateral agencies, bilateral institutions and private sector organizations that provide assistance to countries to assist their poor populations.

"Microfinance has been identified as one of the best ways to address poverty, and now the Philippines is at the forefront of this goal," said Finance Undersecretary Gil Beltran, who represented the Philippines during the celebration.

Beltran said the recognition was a result of the establishment of the National Strategy for Microfinance, which served as a blueprint for easing credit access for the poor.

Under the National Strategy for Microfinance, the national government will strive to improve the delivery of funds for credit to the poor.

This was done by assigning financial institutions to distribute funds for microcredit, therefore veering away from the old practice of allowing any interested government agency to perform the task.

The old practice had been prone to corruption, Beltran said.

The National Strategy for Microfinance likewise required the development of a standard chart of accounts and financial performance indicators that will guide financial institutions in the implementation of microfinance programs.

A manual for operations of the Cooperative Development Authority has also been developed to improve the CDA's capability to strengthen cooperatives.

The country's microfinance development program also had to do with the government's initiative to create a national credit bureau, which will house information on the credit standing of borrowers.

It was also seen encouraging credit providers to expand their services.

The credit bureau is a work in progress by various agencies led by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas and the Department of Finance.

Beltran said that at present, there are private financial institutions providing microfinance services to the poor in provinces all over the country.

The finance official said the government would continue the task of expanding the coverage of microcredit facilities for the poor, especially after receiving the CGAP award.

"The award is a testament to the government's efforts to help the poor and make them contribute to the country's economic performance," Beltran said.

Cebu resort . . .

From page B8

The lagoon was built over barren rock, so no ecosystem was affected when the resort was put up, and coconut timber was widely used. Plastics were avoided to prevent fire and smoke hazards.

Plantation Bay's conservation efforts, however, would come to naught if it did not engage the surrounding communities who are in the same "transition" environment.

Plantation Bay representatives sit on the council of Barangay Marigondon to help the community address environmental and livelihood issues.

"Tourism has to be a tool for livelihood," Martinez said, "if their basic needs are met, then they don't need to harness illegally from the sea."

Plantation Bay also provides free school bus service in the community, making it possible for local children who could not afford public transportation to get basic education.

Martinez added that the locals get first crack at employment opportunities, such as boating services for guests during peak seasons.

She said that by getting the communities to benefit from the tourism attracted by Plantation Bay, the resort helps improve their lives.

"At the end of the day, everybody benefits because the tourists will feel happy about staying here," she said, "such that when they think about Cebu, they will think about pleasant memories."

GOINGS-ON

RP to host rice forum

MORE than 500 of the world's renowned rice scientists and researchers will be in the Philippines from November 20-23 for the 5th International Rice Genetics Symposium.

To be held at the Isla Ballroom of the Edsa Shangri-la Hotel in Mandaluyong City, the symposium will be an opportunity for the Philippine rice industry to hear the latest in rice research and its applications to boost rice production.

The symposium will also allow local rice researchers to know more about the products of rice genertics research from around the world.

The symposium is organized by the International Rice Research Institute in Los Banos, Laguna.

IRRI has been at the forefront of scientific research efforts to enhance quality and yield of rice while preserving the environment.

Education firm execs in RP

Executives of Neurolanguage Corp., an international education company based in Ottawa, Canada, are in the Philippines for a visit ending today for intensive training of partner Gemini IT Consulting.

The executives will also hold a half-day seminar to be attended by representatives from call center companies, schools, universities and colleges, the Department of Education and various embassies in the country.

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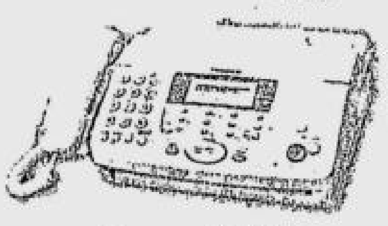

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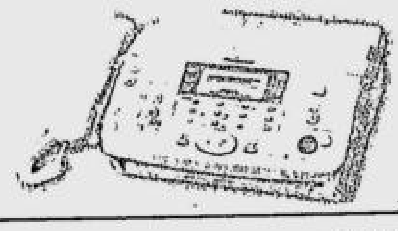

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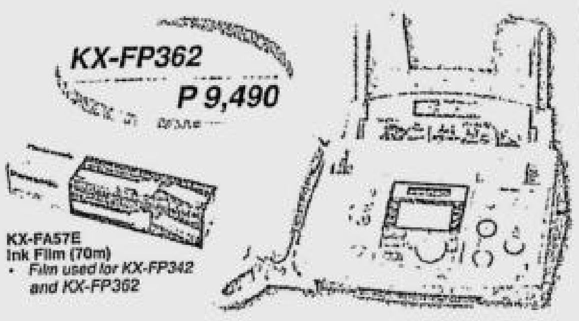

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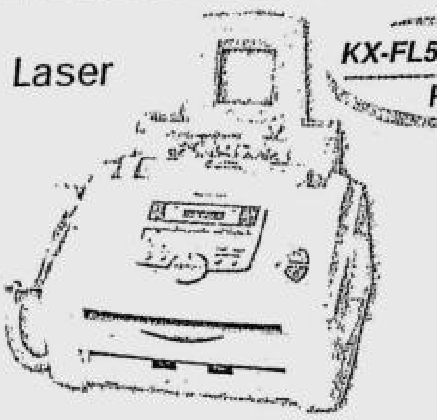

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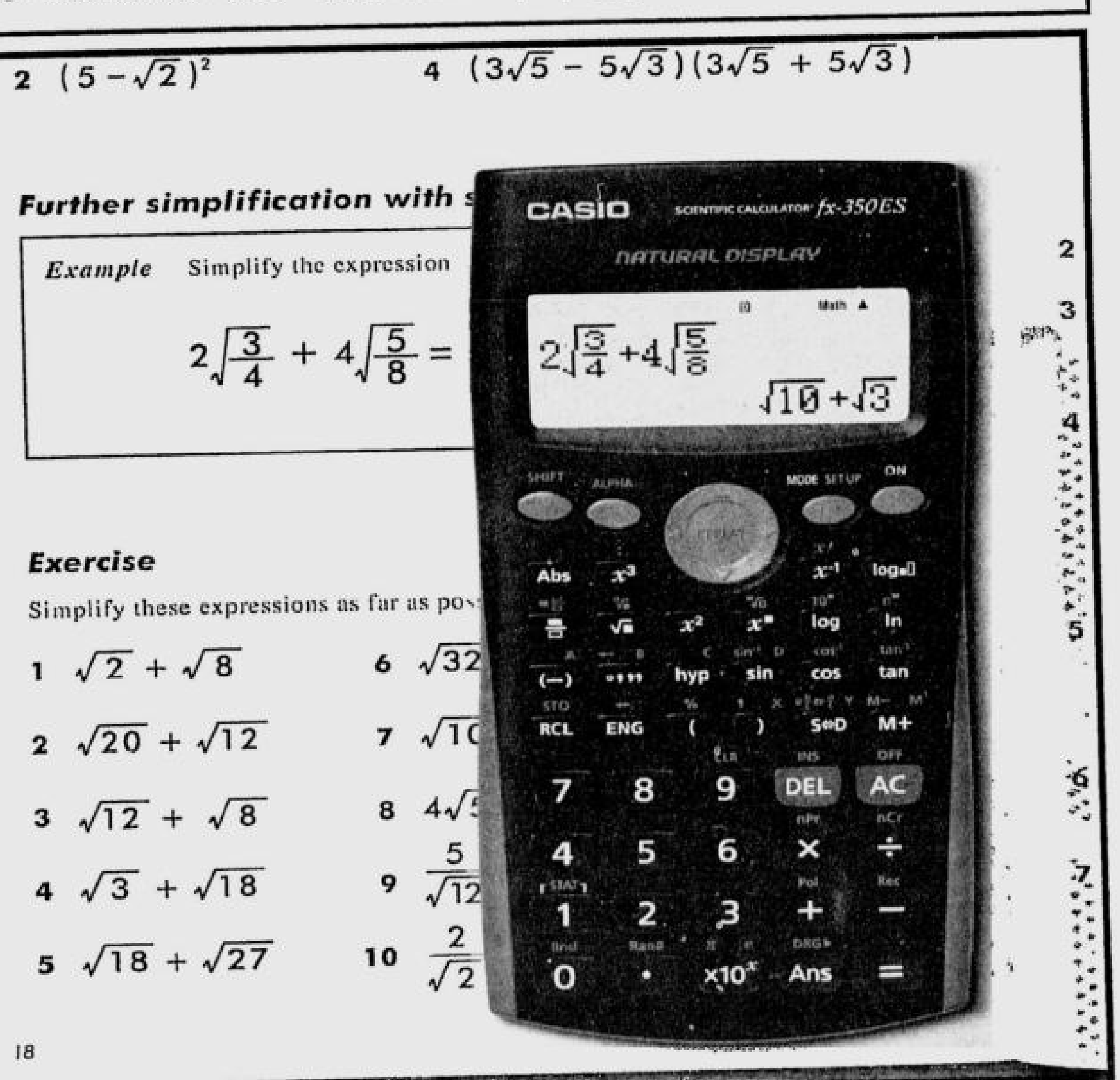


2 $(5-\sqrt{2})^2$

4 $(3\sqrt{5}-5\sqrt{3})(3\sqrt{5}+5\sqrt{3})$

Further simplification with s

Example Simplify the expression

$$2\sqrt{\frac{3}{4}}+4\sqrt{\frac{5}{8}}=$$

Exercise

Simplify these expressions as far as pos

1 $\sqrt{2}+\sqrt{8}$

2 $\sqrt{20}+\sqrt{12}$

3 $\sqrt{12}+\sqrt{8}$

4 $\sqrt{3}+\sqrt{18}$

5 $\sqrt{18}+\sqrt{27}$

6 $\sqrt{32}$

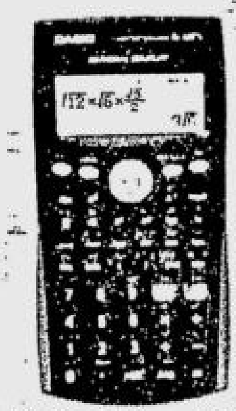
7 $\sqrt{1}$

8 $4\sqrt{}$

9 $\frac{5}{\sqrt{12}}$

10 $\frac{2}{\sqrt{2}}$

18



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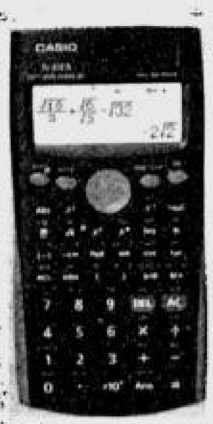
- Combination and permutation
- Statistics
- AAA-size(R03)battery



fx-85ES 249 functions
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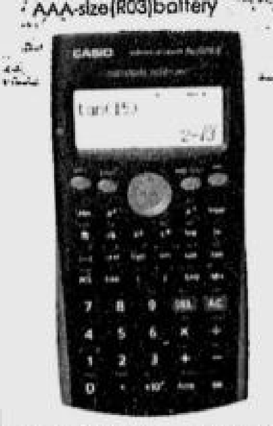

fx-350ES 249 functions
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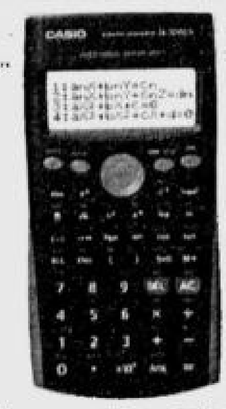
- Fraction calculations
- Combination and permutation
- Statistics
- AAA-size(LR03)Alkaline battery



fx-500ES 253 functions
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- Combination and permutation
- Statistics
- Equation calculations
- AAA-size(R03)battery

fx-991ES 403 functions
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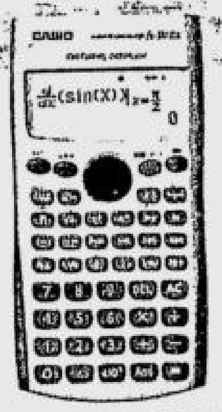
- Matrix calculations
- Vector calculations
- Complex number calculations
- Two-way power



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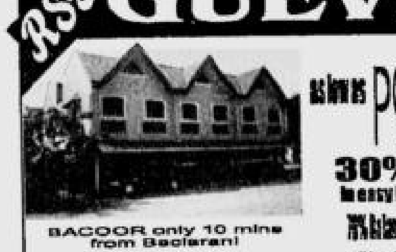

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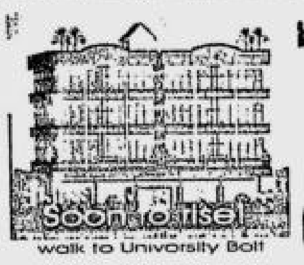

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CONDO, BNEW, 09192189817

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MANILA

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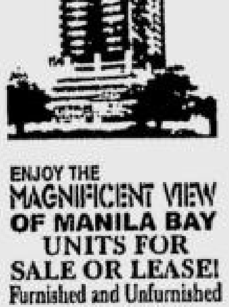
(at the back of Chinese Embassy, Roxas Boulevard, Manila)



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GILMORE CON 0917-2580899

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5.8M 9132701/0918-9356366

VARIED AREAS

ZERO INTEREST LOW DOWN ORTIGAS CTR PASIG GLOBAL CITY FORT BONIFACIO EDSA MANDALUYONG MANILA
0919-4053902 - 0922-8060346

LOT

MAKATI

GUADALUPE NUEVO 3 LOTS 762 SQM CALL 09195998039

PASIG

3002sqm ORTIGAS 09208309744

QUEZON CITY

★KATIPUNAN Ext Resl lot nr UP Ateneo 204 to 408m² P8,500/m² 0918-9235216★

SAN JUAN

157sqm 140 F. Blumentritt Lou 09189134980/8559305

CAVITE

Lot Only Town & Country Cavite 2 adjoining lot 120sqm at 3,500 /sqm contact 09178268250

PACIFIC PARKPLACE 132sqm •0920-9155358•

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MANDALUYONG

3br Wack2 15T 09189420180

PASIG

3br2cg 15T nr SM Mega 9002400

QUEZON CITY

QC CONDO 2 BR W/ PARKING 9266653/09179955426

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PASAY

PASAY NR EDSA 1BR 2318973

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1% CARLOAN 373-6519

1% Easy Car Loan 4112547/48

1% w/out taking car 5315577

1% w/out taking car 7262780

1.5% Easy Car Loan 3748765

1.5% easy carloan 7815352/55

1.5% w/o taking Car 7228942-43

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3732081/82

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3650974/75

2% w/o taking car 7880183-84

2% w/o taking car 7723810/12

2% w/oTaking Car 8966630/33

2% w/oTaking Car 8959454

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

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PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of late Myrna G. Mata was extrajudicially settled by her heirs per Doc #346, page #105, Bk #XIV, Series 2005 before Notary Public Atty. Carlito V. Sembrano of Q.C. (PDI-Nov. 18,25 Dec. 2, 2005)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE INESTATE ESTATE OF THE PACITA VALLEJO MENCHACA, A RESIDENT OF SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA, WHO DIED IN THAT MUNICIPALITY ON SEPTEMBER 26, 2005, HAS BEEN SETTLED BY ANTONIO V. MENCHACA BY AN AFFIDAVIT OF SELF-ADJUDICATION EXECUTED ON OCTOBER 10, 2005 ACKNOWLEDGED BEFORE NOTARY PUBLIC FOR MAKATI CITY MA. RESA S. CELIZ WHO RECORDED THE SAME IN HER NOTARIAL REGISTER AS DOC. NO. 323; PAGE NO. 66; BOOK IX; SERIES OF 2005. (PDI NOV. 11, 18 & 25, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Region XIV, Cotabato City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The National Food Authority, Regional Office XIV, through the Grains Operating Fund intends to apply the sum of Three Million Five Hundred Nineteen Thousand Two Hundred Eighteen Pesos & 50/100 (Php 3,519,218.50) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the Contract for the Procurement of Trucking/Hauling Services of estimated four hundred three thousand five hundred (403,500) bags of grains for transfer to the following destinations:

Lot	Source	Destination	Estimated Number of	ABC
1	SPGC	Cotabato City	15,750	300,037.50
2		Philtrade V	10,000	390,300.00
3		S. Aguak	25,000	202,000.00
4		Polloc Warehouses	13,000	511,160.00
5	COT. CITY	Philtrade V	9,450	23,625.00
6		Polloc Warehouse	6,300	24,696.00
7	Polloc Warehouses	Philtrade V	15,000	58,800.00
8		CIC	5,000	19,600.00
9		SPGC	20,000	786,400.00
10	S. Aguak	SPGC	20,000	161,600.00
11	Marawi City	Malabang	24,000	480,000.00
12	Basilan Wharf	GID Basilan	180,000	315,000.00
13	Sulu Wharf	GID Sulu	30,000	96,000.00
14	Tawi-Tawi Wharf	GID Tawi-Tawi	30,000	150,000.00
		Total	403,500	3,519,218.5.00

Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act No. 9184 (RA 9184), otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted to organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, as specified in the Republic Act 5183 (RA 5183). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the lowest calculated bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine his responsiveness to the technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

PARTICULAR	DATE/TIME/VENUE
Distribution of Eligibility & Bid documents	Dec. 2, 2005 – Dec. 29, 2005 @ 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM, NFA RO XIV, Cotabato City
Deadline on submission of Letter of Intent	December 9, 2005 / 3:00 PM / NFA XIV, ORC, Cotabato City
Pre-Bidding Conference	December 16, 2005 / @ 9:00 AM / NFA RO XIV Conference Room, Cotabato City
Deadline for the submission of Eligibility Requirements and Bid Tender Forms	January 5, 2006 @ 8:30 AM, NFA XIV Cotabato City
Opening of Eligibility Requirements and Bid Tender Forms	January 5, 2006 / @ 9:00 AM, NFA XIV Conference Room, Cotabato City

A complete sets of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the NFA Provincial Offices where the concerned Lots are located or from the BAC XIV Secretariat upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of Two thousand Pesos (Php 2,000.00). The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

All bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the amount and form as enumerated under Section 27.2 of IRR-A. Late bids shall not be accepted.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from Provincial Manager/BAC XIV Vice Chairman Mr. Kitem P. Kadatuan or Supervising Enforcement and Investigation Officer/BAC XIV Member Mr. Nelson P. Sañada.

The NFA reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY REGIONAL OFFICE XIV
Asst Regional Director Ofelia M. Sero
ORC Complex, Cotabato City
(064) 421-24-07, Fax (064) 421-21-28
Nfa14orc@yahoo.com

(Sgd.) OFELIA M. SERO
BAC Chairman

(PDI – November 18 & December 2, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Region XIV, Cotabato City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The National Food Authority, Regional Office XIV, through the Grains Operating Fund intends to apply the sum of Five million five hundred fifty eight thousand four hundred fourteen pesos (Php 5, 558,414.00) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the Contract for the Procurement of Handling Services of estimated one million seven hundred fifty one thousand four hundred twenty five (1,751,425) bags of grains in the following NFA owned and leased warehouses:

Lot No.	Location	Estimated Volume to	ABC
1	GID Maganoy	160,073	484,719.00
2	R & B	58,810	178,680.00
3	RPA 1	221,389	673,167.00
4	RPA 2	53,035	159,105.00
5	RPA 3	85,392	256,176.00
6	RPA 4	40,791	122,373.00
7	Philtrade V	283,239	1,132,956.00
8	CIC	31,709	95,127.00
9	SPGC – GID	142,087	438,523.50
10	GID Marawi	212,075	636,225
11	Malabang	44,525	160,762.50
12	GID Basilan	309,000	927,000.00
13	GID Sulu	53,600	134,000.00
14	GID Tawi-Tawi	55,700	159,600
15	Total	1,751,425	5,558,414.00

Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act No 9184 (RA 9184), otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted to organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, as specified in the Republic Act 5183 (RA 5183). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the lowest calculated bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine his responsiveness to the technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

PARTICULAR	DATE/TIME/VENUE
Distribution of Eligibility & Bid documents	Dec. 2, 2005 – Dec. 29, 2005 @ 8:00 AM to 5 PM NFA RO XIV, Cotabato City
Deadline on submission of Letter of Intent	December 9, 2005 / 3:00 PM / NFA XIV, ORC, Cotabato City
Pre-Bidding Conference	December 16, 2005 / @ 2:00 PM / NFA RO XIV, Conference Room, Cotabato City
Deadline for the submission of Eligibility Requirements and Bid Tender Forms	January 5, 2006 / @ 1:30 PM / NFA XIV Cotabato City
Opening of Eligibility Requirements and Bid Tender Forms	January 5, 2006 / @ 2:00 PM, NFA XIV Conference Room, Cotabato City

A complete sets of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Interested Bidders from the NFA Provincial Offices where the concerned Lots are located or from the BAC XIV Secretariat upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of One Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (Php 1,500.00). The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

All bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the amount and form as enumerated under Section 27.2 of IRR-A. Late bids shall not be accepted.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from Provincial Manager/BAC XIV Vice Chairman Mr. Kitem P. Kadatuan or Supervising Enforcement and Investigation Officer/BAC XIV Member Mr. Nelson P. Sañada

The NFA reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY REGIONAL OFFICE XIV
Asst Regional Director Ofelia M. Sero
ORC Complex, Cotabato City
(064) 421-24-07, Fax (064) 421-21-28
Nfa14orc@yahoo.com

(Sgd.) OFELIA M. SERO
BAC Chairman

(PDI–Nov. 18 & Dec. 2, 2005)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given that Certificate of Residence / ICR No. 283290 issued on March 5, 1993 at Manila under the name of RAYMOND LOUIS MEYNET was lost. If no contest received new certificate will be issued. (PDI - Nov 11,18 & 25, 2005)

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Garments, P20 Up 727-4934

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

RTW CONSIGN 0917-8830002

"PART-TIME BUSINESS" Work thru phone Earn up to P20k/mo 376-2644 & 42

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La Funeraria Paz - Sucat
Manila Memorial Park
NOW OFFERS
24 - HOUR
CREMATION SERVICES
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OBITUARIES

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HERITAGE PARK
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845-2334 to 38; 845-2440

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

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INQUIRER OBITUARIES

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:

- Copy of Death Certificate:
- Any identification document (I.D.)

On the 3rd Anniversary of the Death
of the late

PEDRO CORDERO CABIGAO

who passed away on November 18, 2002

His wife CRESCENCIA, children ED & OLIVE, MARILOU & REY, MIKE & PINKY, ANN & ORLY, JOSEPH & JOCELYN, MENCHU & CRIS request pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

DEATH NOTICE

ANTONIO GABRIEL SANTOS

Peacefully joined his Creator on November 15, 2005

His body lies in state at Santos residence,
557 V. Mauricio St., Turo, Bocaue, Bulacan.
Interment will be on Sunday, November 20, 2005
at Krus sa Wawa Memorial Park, Bocaue
after the 1:00 pm Mass

Ex-Coun. JOSE "JOJO" A. MARASIGAN

of Lobo, Batangas / Villamor Air Base, Pasay City
Now peacefully rests in the infinite grace & goodness of the Lord on the 12th day of November 2005 at the age of 52.

He is survived by his mother, Erlinda "Lily"; brothers Marlon & Hazel, Roy & Evelyn, Rommel & Denise, Joel & Rowena; sisters Edessa Lourdes & Lhea; nephews, nieces & relatives.

We request the pious reader to pray for the eternal repose of his soul. His body lies in state at La Funeraria Paz – Sucat, Parañaque City.

Interment will be on Sunday, November 20, 2005 at Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque after the 9:00 AM Holy Mass followed by necrological service.

"...absent from the body to be present with the Lord."
2 Corinthians 5:8

LILIA MACASA GALANG

Peacefully joined our Lord on November 17, 2005 at the age of 84.

Her children **Baby, Zeny, Sonia** and **Inday**; sons-in-law **Arthur G. Yap, Tony Hardiman** and grandchildren **Ava, Armi, Ana, Brian** and **Mikee** request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at La Funeraria Paz, Quezon City.

Interment will be on November 19, 2005 at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City after the 8:00 a.m. Mass at Funeraria Paz.

CLASSIFIEDS

REBAP 27th Convention set

THE REAL ESTATE Brokers Association of the Philippines (REBAP), Inc. will hold its 27th Convention and Election on Nov. 24, 25 and 26, 2005 at Villa Caceres Hotel and Restaurant, Naga City. The theme of the convention is "REBAP 1". Every chapter will have their presentation on the said theme. There will be added activities such as photo exhibit, fellowship, parade and many more surprises. The following are the sponsors : Rapids Forming Corporation, Phoenix Land, 24 K Development and Chanworks Marketing.

Cabiao Alumni slate benefit dinner-dance

THE CABIAO NATIONAL High School Alumni Association, Inc. (CNHSAAI), will hold a benefit dinner-dance and fellowship on Nov. 19 (Sat.) at 6:30p.m., at the AFPCOC, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City.

Dubbed as "An Affair in November," the occasion is an annual fund-raising project of CNHSAAI to finance its various projects at the Cabiao National High School of Cabiao, Nueva Ecija. It was jointly announced by Paulino C. Santiago and Anita A. Legaspi, CNHSAAI's acting chair, and president, respectively.

Special guests include Roberto M. Pagdanganan, chair of the Philippine International Trade Corporation; and Sergio R. Ortiz-Luis, Jr., chair of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, according to Precy B. Bulos and architect Antonio L. Roque, chairpersons of the activity.

Other committee members are : Gen. Carmelito G. Beltran, Jose Santos, Mrs. Clinia Beltran, Mrs. Precy Roque, and Mrs. Santos.

CNHSAAI, composed of alumni batches from 1950 to 2003, is supporting a number of projects, including operating a computer learning center; provision of scholarship to deserving high school students; and extension of the construction of its Bahay Alumni.

National Power Corporation

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

Republic of the Philippines
NPC, MMSD 2005-027
Genset rental & various Spare Parts for NPC Small Power Utilities Group

1. The NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION (NPC), through its approved Corporate Budget of CY 2005 intends to apply the sum of (Please see schedule under Item No. 9) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract listed below. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. NPC now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for GOODS listed below. Delivery of the GOODS is required by the date indicated in the bid documents. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino Citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who shall determine as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from NPC and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:30 AM to 3:30 PM, from Monday to Friday. Issuance of Bidding Documents shall start on November 18, 2005 from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Monday to Friday. No Bid Documents shall be issued on the date of bidding.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount listed below. The method of payment will be cash. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
6. NPC will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on dates listed below at the designated NPC function rooms.
7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address as listed in the Bid Documents on or before the dates stated below. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form as stated in the Bid Documents. Late Bids shall not be accepted.
8. Bid opening shall be on the dates specified hereunder at the designated NPC function rooms. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.
9. ITEMS FOR BID

Schedule	Date/Time & Place of Bidding	Item Description	PR No/Inquiry No.	ABC (In Pesos)	Bid Docs Price
I	December 16, 2005 10:00 A.M. Harraya Room	Rental of one (1) 500kw Genset for Kalamansig Diesel Power Plant	PB051216- MMAM3925 HO-LEB-05-0133	1,650,000.00	P 550.00
II		Parts for LFO Purifier SJ 30T for 14.4 MW Power Barge 106	PB-051216- MMAM3926 VR-PB6-05-106	2,193,760.00	P 1,100.00
III		Parts for HFO Purifier SJ 40T for 14.4 MW Power Barge 106	PB051216- MMAM3927 VR-PB6-05-107	2,771,580.00	P 1,100.00
IV		"GM" Spare Parts for Marinawa Diesel Power Plant	PB040610 MMAD0958 (PB3 SL-MCD-04-0050	4,529,600.00	P 1,100.00

NOTE : A Pre-Bidding Conference will be held for the following bidding schedules:

Schedule	Date	Time	Place
Schedule I – IV	Dec. 2, 2005	2:00 P.M.	Old Peñafrancia Room

10. NPC reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION
THE BAC, MMSD – SECRETARIAT
Materials Management Department, Materials Management Services Division
Agham Rd., cor. Quezon Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. No. 921-3190, 921-3541 loc. 5599 & 5477
mitriñanes @ napocor.gov.ph
Fax No. 921-3190
http://www.napocor.gov.ph

LORENZO S. MARCELO
Chairman, BAC-MMSD

(PDI – November 18 & 25, 2005)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION & COMMUNICATIONS
LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE
East Avenue, Quezon City
E-mail Address: ltombox@lto.gov.ph • Website: ww.lto.gov.ph

INVITATION TO BID

The Land Transportation Office invites all motor vehicle owners to apply for eligibility to participate in an On-site Auction of thirty one (31) pieces Limited Edition - Vanity License Plates (VLP), with a floor price of Php 50,000.00 per plate with the following salient features:

I. Plates available for Auction:

ORDER OF SALE ON-SITE BIDDING
31 VLP LIMITED EDITION

TTTT Lot 1	44444 Lot 2	FFFF Lot 3	EEEE Lot 4	YYYY Lot 5
UUUUUU Lot 6	6666 Lot 7	PPPPP Lot 8	HHHHHH Lot 9	ZZZZ Lot 10
666666 Lot 11	BBBB Lot 12	TTTTTT Lot 13	NNNN Lot 14	4444 Lot 15
DDDDD Lot 16	UUUUU Lot 17	IIIIII Lot 18	444444 Lot 19	DDDDDD Lot 20
WWWW Lot 21	CCCC Lot 22	LLLLLL Lot 23	PPPPPP Lot 24	55555 Lot 25
RRRR Lot 26	FFFFFF Lot 27	NNNNN Lot 28	PPPP Lot 29	DDDD Lot 30
YYYYYY Lot 31				

II. Auction Details:

Date : November 18, 2005
Time : 4:00 p.m.
Venue : Bulwagang Edu, 2/F LTO Bldg., East Ave., Diliman, Q.C.

III. Documentary Requirements:

1. Duly accomplished Application Form
2. Official Receipt issued by LTO Central Office or Deposit slip from Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP)

Bidding procedures and requirements are available at the Budget Section, LTO Central Office. For further information, you may contact Ms. Suzie Santidad-Cruz (02) 929-2779 / Ms. Jeah Delfin (02) 921-9068 or visit our website www.lto.gov.ph.

(Sgd.) **ANNELI R. LONTOC**
Asst. Secretary

(PDI - Nov. 18, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
Center for Health Development – NCR
DR. JOSE N. RODRIGUEZ MEMORIAL HOSPITAL
Tala, Caloocan City
Telefax Tel. : 962-98-04

November 11, 2005

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Dr. Jose N. Rodriguez Memorial Hospital invites responsible and duly accredited suppliers from DOH/CHD-NCR to apply for eligibility and to bid for the supply of the following items:

- A. Medical Supplies
- B. Laboratory Supplies
- C. Janitorial Supplies
- D. Construction, Plumbing, Electrical and Transport/ Motorpool Supplies
- E. Computers and Printer
- F. Water Tank
- G. A. Drugs and Medicines
  - B. Drugs and Medicines (Pay Pharmacy)
- H. Foodstuffs

SCHEDULE OF BIDDING ACTIVITIES:

Issuance of Bid Documents : November 24 to December 5, 2005 8:00 A.M.-5:00 P.M.
Pre-bid Conference : Items A-H – November 23, 2005, (10:00 A.M.)
Checking of Eligibility Requirements : November 24-December 05, 2005 (8:00 A.M.-4:00 P.M.)

Submission & Opening of Bids

Items:
A. December 6, 2005 (9:30 A.M.)
B. December 6, 2005 (1:30 P.M.)
C. December 6, 2005 (2:30 P.M.)
D. December 7, 2005 (9:30 A.M.)
E. December 7, 2005 (1:30 P.M.)
F. December 7, 2005 (2:30 P.M.)
G. A and B December 8, 2005 (9:30 A.M.)
H. December 8, 2005 (1:30 P.M.)

Prospective bidders may secure bid proposal form from the BAC Secretariat, Dr. Jose N. Rodriguez Memorial Hospital, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Five Hundred Pesos (P500.000).

All activities shall be held at the Training Room, Dr. Jose N Rodriguez Memorial Hospital, Tala, Caloocan City, unless announced otherwise.

Each bid must be accompanied by a bidder's bond in the form of a certified check, manager's check, or GSIS bond in an amount equivalent to a percentage of the approved budget for the contract to be bid. The Approved Budget Cost is stated on the bid documents.

For further inquiries, interested bidders may contact the BAC Secretariat or call Telephone No. 962-9884 or 962-9886.

Dr. JNRMH reserves the right to accept or reject any bid and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at anytime prior to notice of award without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidders or any obligation to inform the affected bidders of the grounds for the hospital's action.

(Sgd.) **EDGARDO SA. JAVILLONAR, MD, MHA.**
Chief of Sanitarium III

(PDI–Nov 13 & 18, 2005)

PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE
Municipality of Katipunan
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

The Local Government Unit of Katipunan has applied a loan with the amount of P2.6M from the Land Bank of the Philippines, Dipolog City, and intends to purchase the following farm equipment:

One (1) Unit Brand New Farm Tractor 4WD
(88-90 Hp Range, 12x12 Transmission; Hydrostatic Power Steering; with ROPS and Canopy)
One (1) Unit Trailing Harrow
(18 pcs. of 24" diameter blades)
One (1) Unit Disc Plow
(4 pcs. of 26" diameter blades)
One (1) Unit Wheeled Trailer
(Dumping Type, 3-5 tons cap.)

The eligibility check/screening shall use non-discretionary "PASS/FAIL" criteria.

Schedule of Activities:

Activities	Schedule
1. Pre-Bid Conference	Dec. 6, 2005, 9:00 A.M.
2. Last day of Submission of Eligibility Requirements	Dec. 12, 2005, 12:00 Noon
3. Eligibility Check	Dec. 12, 2005, 1:30 P.M.
4. Last Day of Submission of Bid Docs.	Dec. 20, 2005; 12:00 Noon
5. Opening of Bids	Dec. 20, 2005, 1:30 P.M.

Venue : Conference Room
Office of the Municipal Mayor
Katipunan, Zamboanga del Norte

Interested parties will be required to post a bid security in the form of cash, managers check, or Bank guarantee based on the schedule under Section 27 of the Implementing Rules and Regulations of R.A. 9184. The bid security of the winning bidder shall be substituted by a performance security to guarantee prompt, faithful and complete performance of its obligation. A two-envelope (Technical and Financial Proposal) bidding system will be adopted.

All bidders are required to pay a non-refundable amount equivalent to 1% of the Approved Budget of the Contract to the **Municipal Treasurer** to cover the expenses for the bid documents and other related activities for the conduct of the bidding process.

All bid documents shall be submitted to the name and address stated below:

The BAC Chairman
Through BAC Secretariat
Local Government Unit of Katipunan
Katipunan, Zamboanga del Norte

The committee reserves the right to accept or reject any bids, to annul the bidding process and to reject all Bids not in accordance with the provisions of R.A. 9184, at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

For details, you may call the BAC Secretariat on cell nos. 0917-475-3465 or 0917-724-0959.

(Sgd.) **ENGR. ZOSIMO C. PASCO**
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI–November 18 & 25, 2005)

PNOC ENERGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio 1200 Taguig City, Philippines
P.O. Box 2102 MCPO Tel. No. 893-6001 to 47/893-1320; Fax no. 840-1575

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

PNOC - Energy Development Corporation (PNOC-EDC) invites interested contractors, with successful experience as primary contractor in the execution of at least three (3) piping insulation and cladding projects within the last ten (10) years, to apply for eligibility and to bid for the project:

INSULATION AND CLADDING WORKS FOR THE NORTHERN NEGROS GEOTHERMAL PROJECT - FLUID COLLECTION AND REINJECTION SYSTEM (NNGP-FCRS)
EDC 05-196

The Approved Budget is PhP 33,672,980.40 chargeable against PNOC-EDC fund. The contract duration is 150 calendar days.

Application forms for eligibility and bidding documents may be secured from the PNOC-EDC Contracts Administration Group (c/o Francis T. Tolibas local 5179) starting November 21, 2005 upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **Pesos: One Thousand Five Hundred (PhP 1,500.00)**.

Site inspection is on November 25, 2005 at the Northern Negros Geothermal Project in Negros Occidental. For the purpose of clarifying certain issues, a pre-bid conference will be held on November 29, 2005, 10:00 A.M. at the BAC Conference Room, First Floor, Building V, PNOC-EDC, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila.

The application for eligibility, letter of intent and sealed bids shall be received by the PNOC-EDC Contracts Administration Group, First Floor, Building V, PNOC-EDC, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila **not later than 2:00 p.m. (Contracts Administration Group Office Wall Clock Time)** of **December 15, 2005** and shall be publicly opened immediately thereafter.

PNOC - EDC reserves the right to reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any informality therein, to accept such bids or to award any part of the work to any bidder whose bid is considered most advantageous to PNOC-EDC.

The Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI, Nov. 18 & 25, 2005)

PAMBANSANG PANGASIWAAN SA PAGKAIN
NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY

MATIMYAS BLDG., 101 E. RODRIGUEZ SR. AVE. QUEZON CITY
TEL. NO.: (632) 712-3341 TO 54 • FAX NO. (632) 712-1110 • www.nfa.gov.ph

RESETTING OF SCHEDULE OF BIDDING

For the Provision of Insurance Packages for NFA Employees for year 2006

For the information and guidance of all prospective bidders, the submission and opening of bids for the provision of Insurance Packages for NFA Employees for year 2006 is reset from November 25 to December 2, 2005, 3:00 p.m. Venue is still the same.

Please be guided accordingly.

(Sgd.) PEDRO S. HERNANDO, JR.
Deputy Administrator and BAC Chair

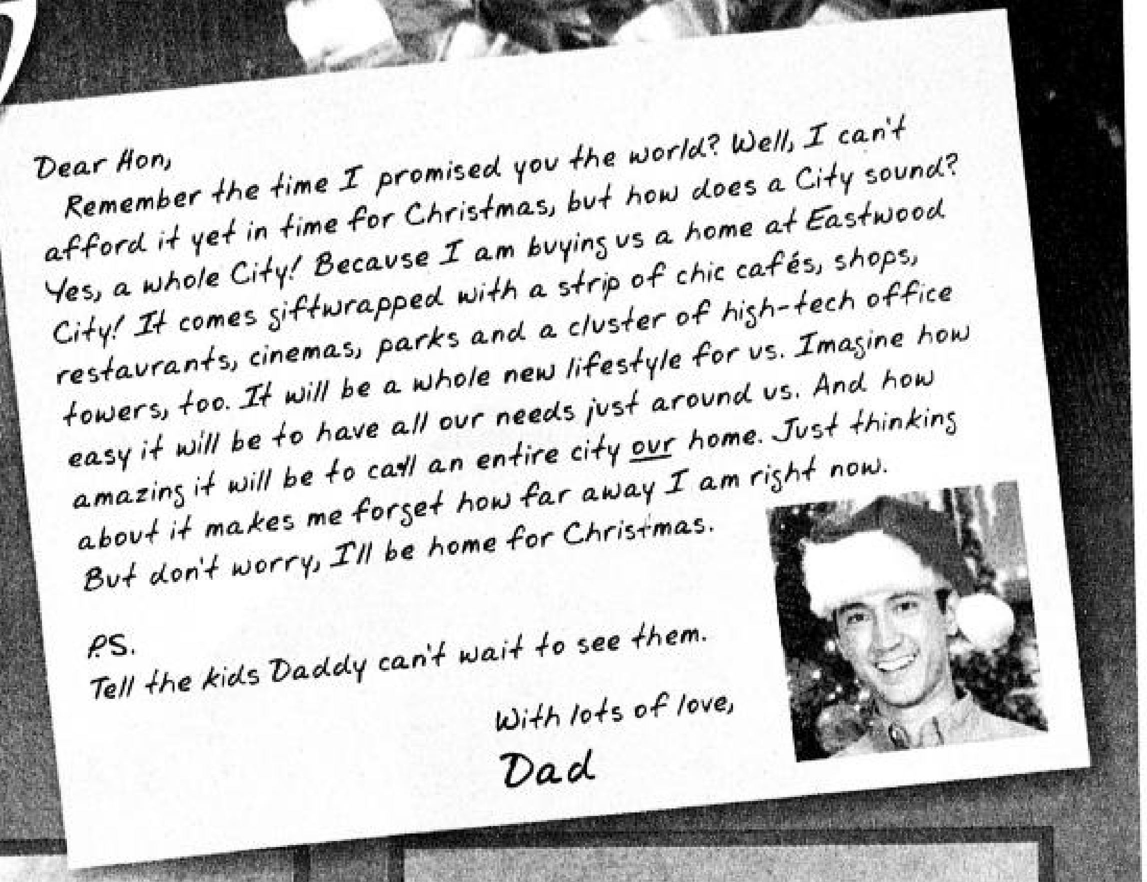
(PDI – November 18, 2005)

read JOB Market every Sunday with INQUIRER

JOB Market visit it online www.JOBMarketonline.com

A Gift that Brings a Whole City at Your Door.

This Christmas, give your family the perfect gift: a home at **One Orchard Road, The Grand Eastwood Palazzo** or **One Central Park.** Give your loved ones the key not just to their dream home. But also to an exciting cosmopolitan lifestyle they can enjoy all year round. Make every day a holiday to celebrate... only at Eastwood City.



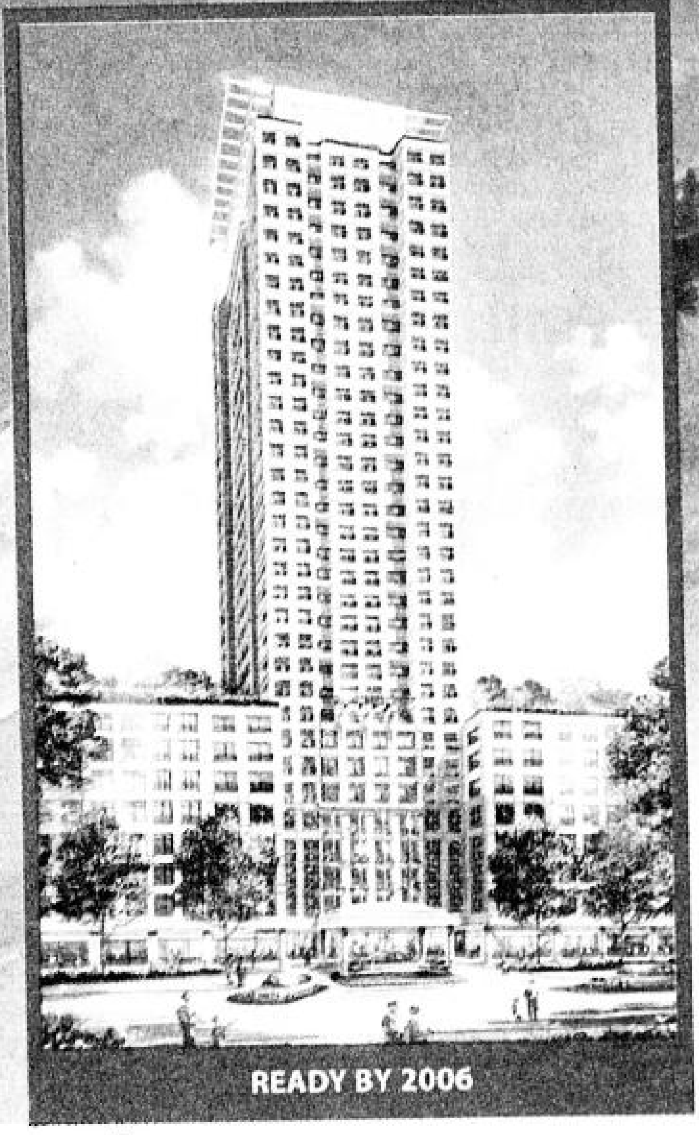
Dear Hon,

Remember the time I promised you the world? Well, I can't afford it yet in time for Christmas, but how does a City sound? Yes, a whole City! Because I am buying us a home at Eastwood City! It comes giftwrapped with a strip of chic cafés, shops, restaurants, cinemas, parks and a cluster of high-tech office towers, too. It will be a whole new lifestyle for us. Imagine how easy it will be to have all our needs just around us. And how amazing it will be to call an entire city our home. Just thinking about it makes me forget how far away I am right now.

But don't worry, I'll be home for Christmas.

P.S.
Tell the kids Daddy can't wait to see them.

With lots of love,
Dad



READY BY 2006

READY BY 2007

READY BY 2009

One Orchard Road

Contemporary homes ranging from cozy executive studios to lavish three-bedroom suites in three towers. With an array of deluxe amenities such as an indoor spa and sauna, tropical gardens at the 6th floor podium deck and a commercial arcade at the ground level.

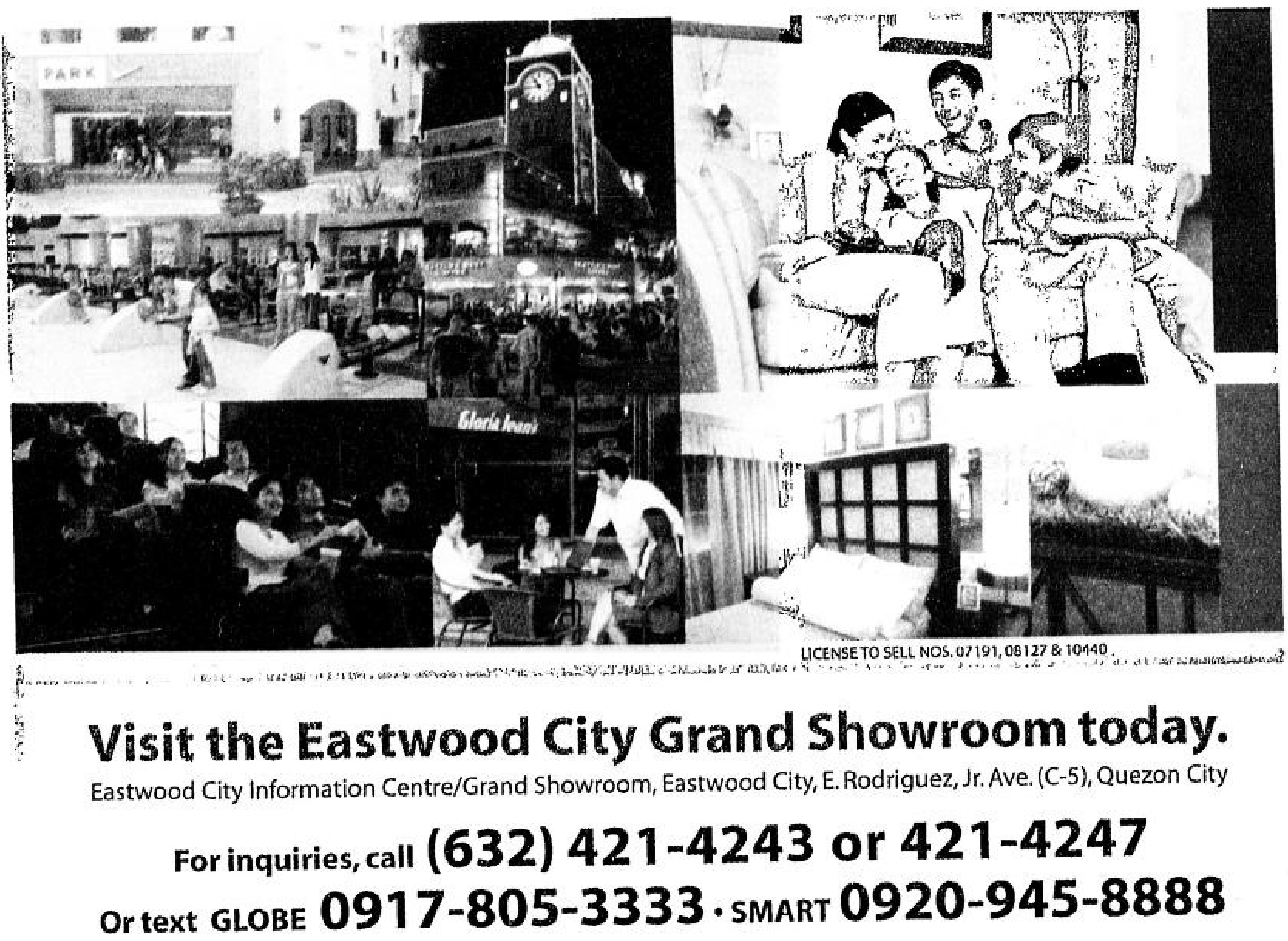
THE GRAND EASTWOOD PALAZZO

Enjoy royal privileges in a European-inspired executive studio or one- to four-bedroom residence. Sit back and unwind at the library/lounge area. Or luxuriate in a slew of resort-style leisure amenities at the 6th floor play deck: Roman-inspired pool, sunbathing lounges, poolside cabana, gazebo spa, children's play area and landscaped gardens.

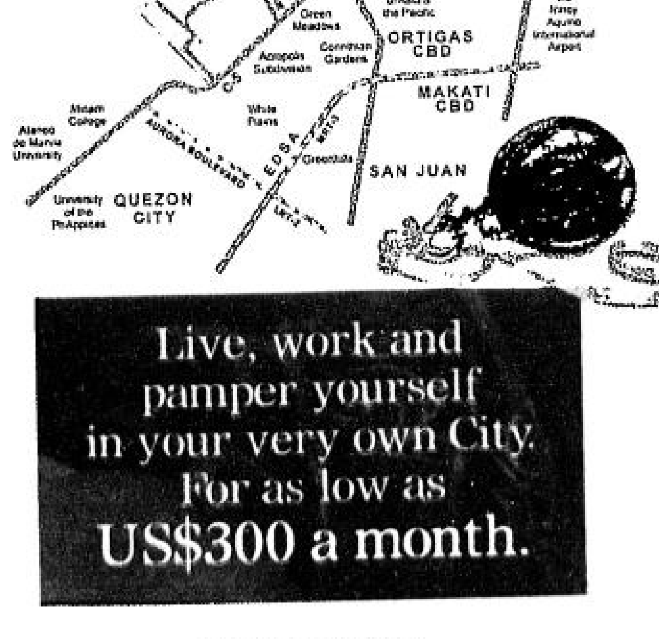
One Central Park

Luxury Residences at Eastwood City

Live atop a four-story mall with boutiques, restaurants, cinemas and gaming arcades in an executive studio or one- to three-bedroom suite. Just an elevator ride away from the 5th floor play deck and an outdoor landscaped park with a lagoon.



PARK
Gloria Jean's



Eastwood City
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C-5
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Green Meadows
ORTIGAS CBD
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Corinthian Gardens
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[illegible]

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For inquiries, call (632) 421-4243 or 421-4247

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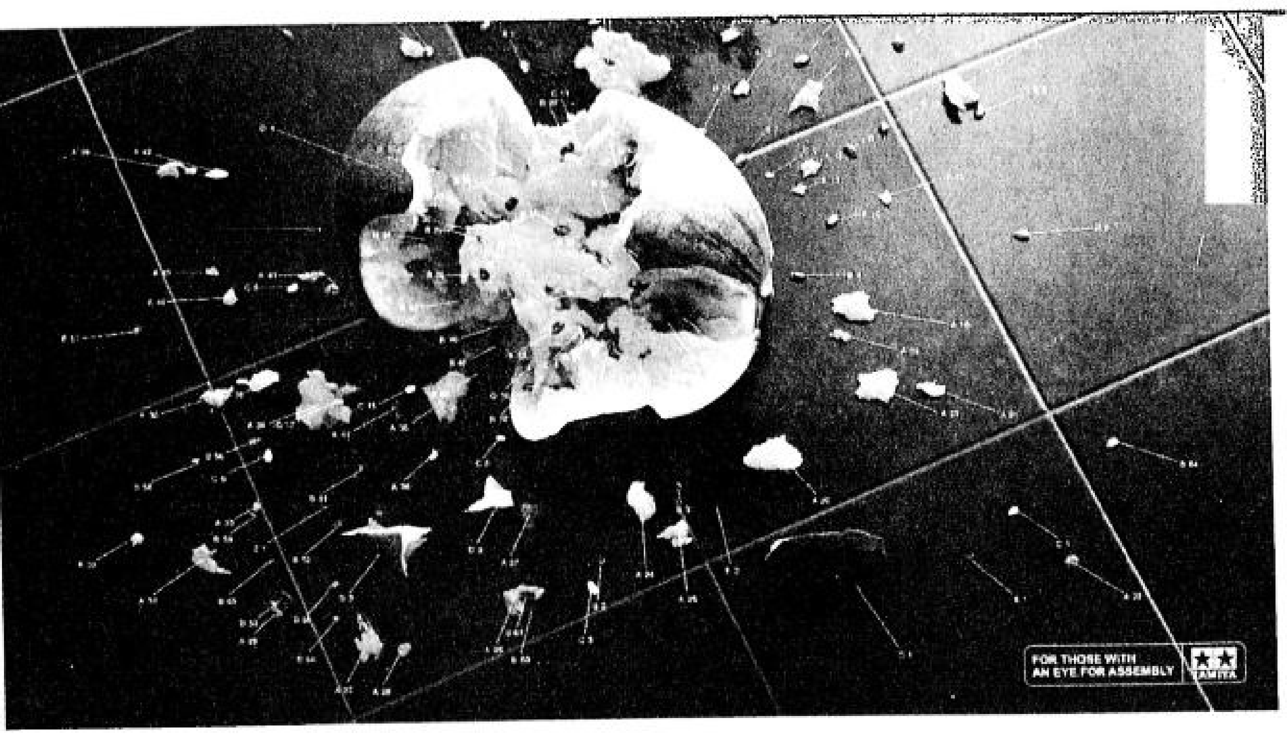
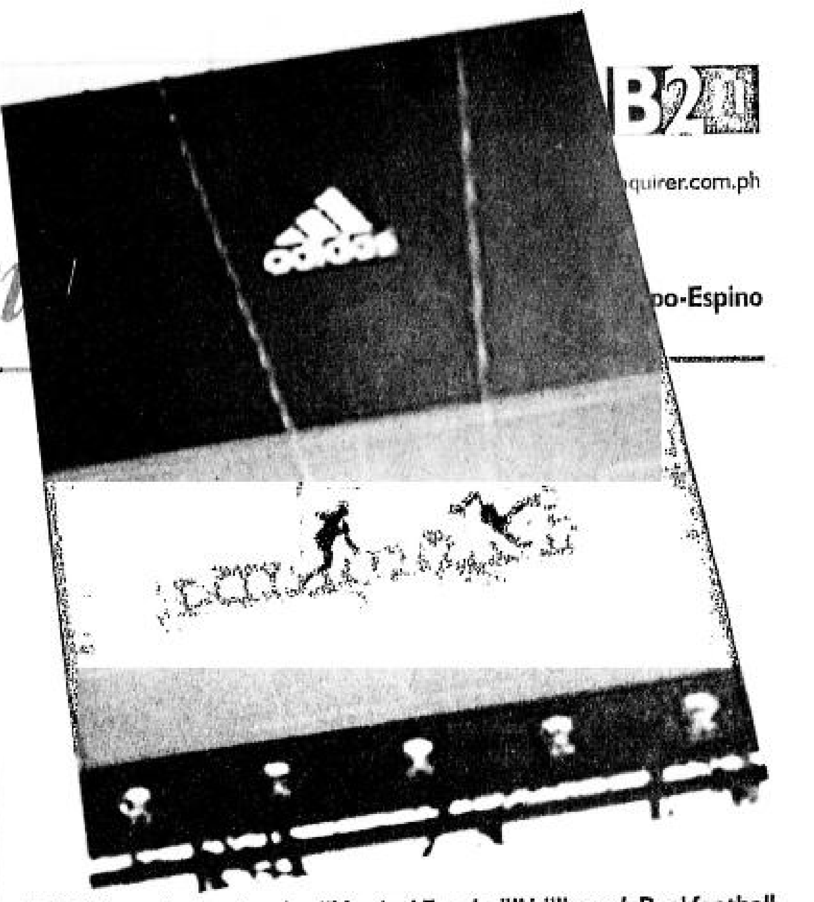


TAMIYA Assembly Toys print ad created by Creative Juice/G1 Thailand understands its consumers' urge to assemble the pieces. The campaign is the most awarded print ad for 2005.



TBWA' Japan's spectacular "Vertical Football" billboard. Real football players play on a suspended field atop a building in high-traffic Tokyo. Winner of two Gold Lions at Cannes and last year's Grand Clio

Asian creativity gets top marks at global ad shows

By Angel V. Guerrero
Contributor

Some of Asia's top creative talents are joining the Philippine Advertising Congress in Cebu.

Gracing the event are advertising experts from Thailand, Japan and Singapore who are among the best in the world—a reputation that stemmed from an enviable count of international creative awards.

Indian advertising talents are doing well, too, with several Cannes Lions and Clios under their belts. Malaysians scored a surprise win at Cannes last year, winning the Grand Prix in Outdoor category for the Channel 9 "Missile Car" effort by JWT Malaysia.

Indeed, the Asian advertising industry is holding its own in the highly competitive advertising world dominated by the US, UK and Latin America.

Thai expertise

The Thais are considered the most creative in the region.

A nation that produces ads almost exclusively in the local Thai language gets resounding approval and appreciation from creative audiences the world over.

Thai advertising, supported by its sometimes less-than-perfect English subtitles, prides itself in being universally understood and applauded for simplicity of the creative idea; storylines that are authentic to Thai culture, beliefs and humor; and excellent production values.

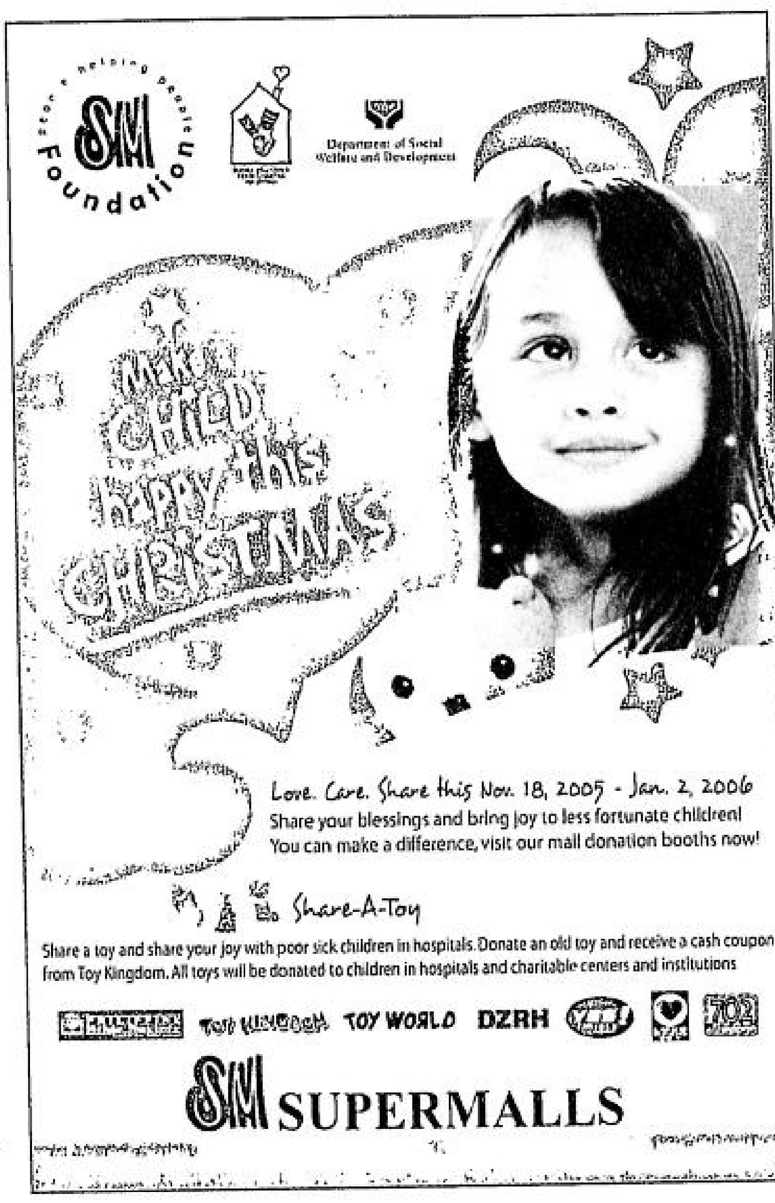
Two Thai directors, Suthon Petchsuwan and Thanonchai Sornsriiwichai, have been cited as the most awarded directors in the world, beating top US and UK directors according to the 2004 Gunn Report, a league table that ranks the best in the advertising world.

Creative Juice/GI, a Thai advertising agency affiliated with TBWA, and formed less than a year ago, produced 2005's most awarded print ad for Tamiya Assembly Toys.

The ongoing Philippine Advertising Congress in Cebu City will bring in two of Thailand's leading advertising personalities, Jureeporn Thaidumrong of Jef United Thailand, Asia's number one creative in the Campaign Brief Asia ranking.

She was the first Thai to win a Cannes Gold and is a consistent winner in global shows. Thaidumrong will be on her

ASIAN/ B3


SM Foundation
Department of Social Welfare and Development

MAKE A CHILD HAPPY THIS CHRISTMAS

Love. Care. Share this Nov. 18, 2005 - Jan. 2, 2006
Share your blessings and bring joy to less fortunate children!
You can make a difference, visit our mall donation booths now!

Share-A-Toy
Share a toy and share your joy with poor sick children in hospitals. Donate an old toy and receive a cash coupon from Toy Kingdom. All toys will be donated to children in hospitals and charitable centers and institutions

TOY KINGDOM TOY WORLD DZRH 702

SM SUPERMALLS

Hair Loss Won't Stop Until YOU Stop It

Your hair loss problem won't go away on its own. Don't let it continue if you don't want to end up bald. With Svenson, you can take control of your hair's worsening condition. Our treatments are aimed at eliminating the main cause of your hair loss, restoring thickness to thinning strands and promoting healthier and faster re-growth.

Act now against hair loss. Call Svenson today for a FREE consultation.

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INTERNATIONAL
YOUR CHOICE NOT TO BE BALD

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[illegible]

Promo extended up to Nov. 30, 2005
Approved by DTI-NCR

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For every Mazda vehicle sold, P1,000 goes to the road safety program.

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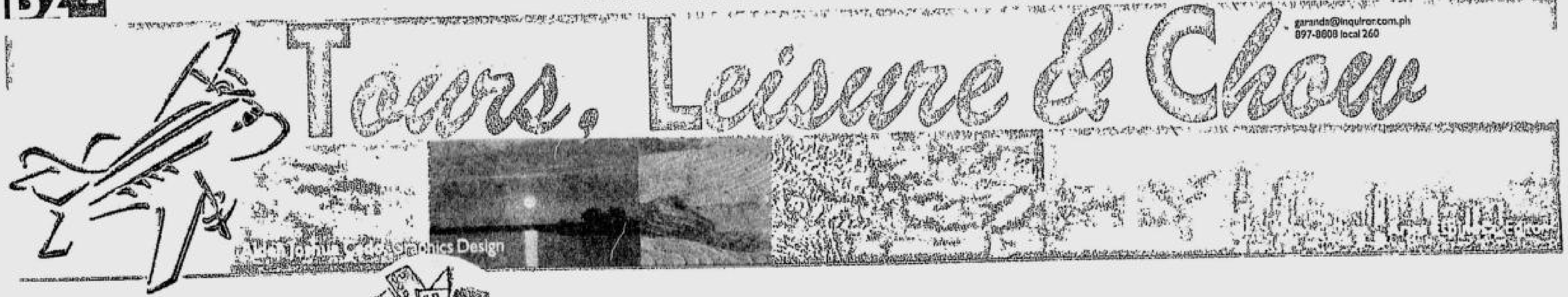
Alan Joshua [illegible] Graphics Design

Where to Stop Where to GO

A weekly directory of the country's best establishments

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www.intercontinental.com

Dusit Hotel Nikko
Ayala Center, 1223 Makati City Phil.
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Fax (074) 446-0704
Email: hotelveniz@skyinet.net
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Subic Bay, Free Port Zone, Olongapo City
Manila : 243-2222 / F: 243-0852
http://www.subichotel.com

The Marco Polo
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Grand Regal Hotel Davao
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Somerset Millennium, Makati
No. 104 Aguirre St., Legaspi Village, 1229
Makati City
Tel. 888-0505 Fax: 812-7721

Somerset Olympia, Makati
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Garden Plaza Hotel & Suites
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Tel. (632) 522-4835/ fax (632) 522-4840

City Garden Suites
1158A Mabini St., Ermita, Manila
Tel. 536-1451 Fax. 524-4844
Email:cityreservations@citygardenhotels.com

City Garden Hotel-Makati
Makati Ave., cor. Kalayaan St., Makati City
Tel. (02) 899-1111Fax. (02) 899-1415
Email: makati:citygardenhotels.com

Palm Plaza Hotel
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www.palmplazahotel.com

Royal Mandaya Hotel
J. Palma Gil St. Davao City
Tel. (082) 225-8888/fax (082) 225-1888

Camp John Hay Manor
Loakan Road, Baguio City
Tel. (074) 446-0231 to 50

City Travel Hotel
15 Kisad Road, Baguio City
Tel. (074) 445-0456 / Fax (074) 445-0457

Golden Pine Hotel and Restaurant
Intersection of Carino St. and Legarda Road, Baguio City
Tel. (074)444-9970 to 71/740-8975/
Fax. (074) 446-0704
Email: goldenpineholte@skyinet.net

Taal Vista Hotel
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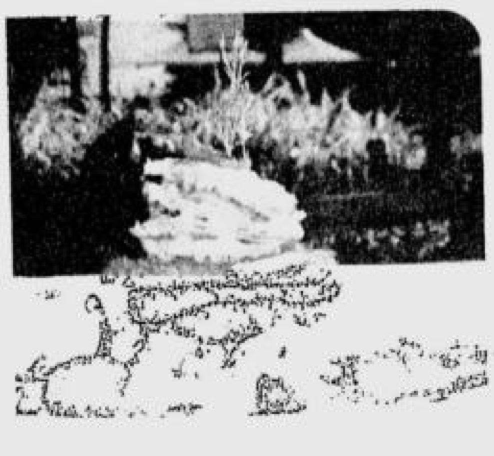
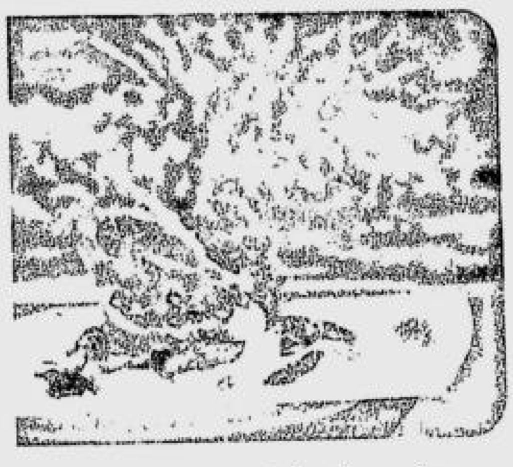
Km. 60 Aguinaldo Highway, Tagaytay City
Tel. (632) 886-4325, (6346) 413-1000
Email : taalvista@fuegohotels.com

Summer Place Hotel
Km. 288 Marcos Highway, Baguio City
Tel. :(074) 446.0560, 446 5400-01
www.SummerPlaceBaguio.com

The Regent Hotel
Elias, Angeles St., Naga City
Tel. (6354) 4722626 / Fax (6354) 4722525

Il Mondo mushrooms with chef Marco Anzani





DISCOVER THE DELECTABLE WORLD of mushrooms from Nov. 20 to 30, as chef Marco Anzani takes you on a gastronomic journey this November with Paparazzi Restaurant's Il Mondo Mushrooms Food Festival at Shangri-La's Mactan Island Resort & Spa.

Indulge in a medley of mouth-watering culinary creations such as Creamy Polenta with Mushroom Ragu, Caesar Salad and Truffle Cream, Potato Gnocchi with Porcini Mushroom, Penne with Chicken & Black Truffles, Ossobuco on Casserole, Grilled Australian Beef Tenderloin and other enticing dishes.

For only P980++, learn how to cook savory Italian dishes that you can easily prepare in your own homes as chef Marco shares some of his special recipes on Monday, Nov. 21 and Friday, Nov. 25 at 3 p.m. inclusive of dinner. Limited slots available. Please make your reservations at (032) 2318 224.

Paparazzi's Il Mondo Mushroom Food Festival's a la carte menu is available daily for lunch and dinner from Nov. 20 to 30, except during the Wednesday dinner buffet and Sunday brunch. Shangri-La's Mactan Island Resort & Spa's bellissimo ristorante Paparazzi serves the most authentic Italian dishes in a relaxing setting. Choose to dine al fresco or in air-conditioned comfort. Open daily for lunch from 12 noon to 2:30 p.m. and for dinner from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. with an Italian dinner buffet on Wednesdays and Italian buffet lunch with kids' entertainment on Sundays from 12 noon to 2:30 p.m.

For more information, please contact the hotel's Restaurant Reservation and Information Centre at (032) 2318 224.

Great holidays at Taal Vista Hotel

THIS SEASON TAAL VISTA HOTEL CELEbrates a Filipino and Spanish inspired Christmas. Spend a great holiday with your family at the breathtaking Taal Vista Hotel amidst the cool ambiance of Tagaytay City. Partake of sumptuous weekend theme buffets while enjoying a lively cultural show all weekends of December, featuring "Holiday Around the Globe" and "Chinese Food Festival" every Saturday then an "Asian Holiday Extravaganza". Have a pick at an array of favorite Filipino snacks and pastries or Spanish churros dipped in thick yummy tsokolate every Merienda Cena all weekends of the month and listen to Villancicos de Navidad performed by a merry choir. Jolly old St. Nicholas awaits kids at Santas Corner to give out treats every weekend from 8 a.m. to 12 noon. Treat yourself and your loved ones to sweets and deli items found at the Carroza Navidena; also perfect for "pasalubong".

Christmas Eve Dinner at the hotel is a delightful sit-down full-course dinner with a glass of red wine or choice of a standard drink. Christmas Day Lunch is a Fiesta of Filipino and Spanish favorites at the café on the ridge after which the children can join the Paskong Palaro at the ridge area with exciting and fun traditional Filipino games plus lots of prizes.

This season give your friends and loved ones something different and heartfelt. Christmas party packages, special room promos, and gift certificates are available. For inquiries and reservations call (02) 886-4325,(046)413-1000, (02)751-3088 to 89. Taal Vista Hotel is managed by Fuego Hotels & Properties. Visit the website at www.taalvista-hotel.com or www.fuegohotels.com.

A Filipino heritage Christmas at Mandarin Oriental

"PASKUHAN - A FILIPINO HERITAGE Christmas" marks Mandarin Oriental, Manila's celebration this year, as it re-lives venerable Filipino Christmas customs and classic celebratory cuisine this coming holiday season in an undertaking that promises to make a difference in the city's Christmas social and cultural calendar.

With the support of the Department of Tourism, the Filipino Heritage Festival Inc. and Unilever, Philippines, the Christmas theme recreates the aristocratic 19th century Filipino yuletide celebrations that were held in many of the grand stone mansions of the era, and pays respect to the elegant traditions and culture that marked this special time in Philippine history.

"The highly successful staging of our Filipino heritage festival Piging which was held in May in conjunction with the Filipino Heritage Month, strongly inspired us to carry on with the same underlying theme for our Christmas celebration this year", says Helmut Gaisberger, Mandarin Oriental's general manager. "Our Christmas celebration pays tribute to the elegance of a period in our Filipino heritage, which shaped today's tradition and culture".

For details on Mandarin Oriental's Christmas offerings, call 750 8888 extension 2304 or thru local toll free number at 1-800-1888-4524 for room reservations; extension 2401 for food and beverage; and extension 2214 for banquet arrangements.

Intimate November at City Garden Hotel Makati

THIS MONTH OF NOVEMBER, CITY GARDEN Hotel Makati, is offering various packages and special promotions for the coming holidays.

With rooms for as low as P1,450 per person on twin-sharing basis, one can already enjoy the hotel's tastefully elegant guest rooms and facilities, inclusive of a choice of free sumptuous buffet breakfast for two or a Spa service at the hotel's Body & Face by Mendez, free use of its open-air swimming pool at the Roofdeck and its fully equipped Gym at the Penthouse. Two (2) children below 12 years of age, stay for free. A great way to spend a relaxing day or a long weekend with your loved ones.

For those one-on-one meetings, it has two restaurants that you can choose from. For this month, Le Jardin Restaurant, with its warm and relaxing dining experience, and its more popular Roofdeck Bar and Grill that gives you a cozy dining experience with a great view of the Makati skyline, is offering its Chef's Special of "Ribs BBQ & Grills". Enjoy mouth-watering steaks, ribs and lamb chops garnished with corn on a cob, grilled onions, tomato and aubergine. Le Jardin is also offering Brunch Buffet open from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. for as low as P295+ per person.

For those planning its Christmas Party, City Garden Hotel's packages comes complete with a buffet meal of either Fiesta Filipino, Western, Continental, Fisherman's Fare or its signature, City Garden Menu. For as low as P35,000+, it already includes use of a function room, basic décor, dance floor and discount on drinks.

Those needing extra pampering, the Body & Face by Mendez at the hotel's Upper Penthouse level has special packages for individuals, couples or group. Try their Revitalizing Glow Package which comes with a choice of Salt Body Glow or Body Gommage and a choice of Swedish or Shiatsu Massage or their Rejuvenating Escape that gives you a choice of Combination or Aromatherapy Massage and a choice of Men's Facial or Oil Control Facial or Nurturing Facial.

Accessibility is also not a problem as the hotel is just five minutes from the Rockwell and Glorietta malls and the Makati Commercial and Business District. As an added amenity, the hotel is offering free scheduled shuttle service to the Makati CBD.

City Garden Hotel Makati is located in Makati's restaurant strip at 7870 Makati Avenue corner Kalayaan Avenue, Makati City. For reservations or inquires, please call (02) 899-1111, or its domestic toll free number 1-800-101-GARDEN (427336), or at www.citygardenhotels.com.

BOULVAR PRESENTS VERNI VARGA

Boulvar, Manila Pavilion Hotel's lobby lounge and the city's newest lifestyle concept restaurant, presents Verni Varga live in concert on Saturday, Nov. 26, at 9 p.m. Photo shows the sultry singer (center) in the recent contract signing that took place in Boulvar. With Ms. Varga are Manila Pavilion Hotel officials (from left) marketing communications manager Tess Samaniego, resident manager Bernardo Corpus Jr, food and beverage director Alex Zuzon and entertainment manager lawyer Dot Gancayco. For ticket inquiries, please call Manila Pavilion Hotel at 526-1212 extension 2408.

Show biz hand has nose for business

By Amy R.Remo

DOMINIC OCHOA enjoys his new role

ACTOR-MODEL DOMINIC OCHOA has found himself another passion that has been keeping his hands full lately.

If not guesting for any of ABS-CBN's sitcoms or endorsing a product, Ochoa, together with his partners, gets busy scouting around Asia for new businesses that they can bring back to the country.

Ochoa's latest venture, for instance, is the I-pop, an ice popsicle, which can be either juice- or milk-based.

Launched last October, I-pop sells for P5 to P8 a stick and comes in eight flavors. During the pilot launch, they sold around 400 popsicles, which were just "enough to pay for rent and electricity," Ochoa says with a laugh.

Ochoa and his partners were also responsible for bringing Thumbs Up ice cream into the country in 2003.

Mock palette

A joint project of Metro Grind Corporation and Nestlé Philippines, Thumbs Up ice cream comes in a set of five miniature (thumb-sized) ice cream, placed on a mock painter's palette. It allows the customer to enjoy five different flavors of ice cream in one serving, making it such a big hit, especially with kids.

With more than 40 carts nationwide, Thumbs Up is now open for franchising with an investment package worth P260,000, inclusive of the rights to use the brand. They will also provide a cart, an initial inventory and equipment.

Natural

"I want to be always mobile," Ochoa says. "I want na gumagana ang utak ko (I want my mind to be always busy), like in running businesses since you are forced to think out your moves and strategies. At this point, I want to do so many things, like studying again."

Putting up businesses seems natural for this 32-year-old actor since his father is a businessman.

"I love what I'm doing as an actor but, let's face it, things can also get unstable with show business because you don't know how long people would want you on screen," he says.

According to Ochoa, his passion for being an "artista" will always be there. But he adds that one also has to accept certain realities, particularly when it concerns the industry and one's career.

"You have to have a fallback, in case things don't work out with you and show biz," he says.

In the meantime, Ochoa keeps himself busy with looking out for new and innovative business ideas and concepts that require minimum investments.

His best business guru, he says, is his dad, from whom he has learned what time and financial management are really all about.

Ochoa relates that he once wanted a sports car—a Lotus Elise—as a gift for himself, and told his dad about it.

His dad was then on a trip to France and asked for the car's price quotations.

When he returned, he handed Ochoa a keychain of the Lotus and simply said, "it's not practical to buy that car since *walang magse-service nyan dito sa Pilipinas* ... go look for another car."

"That taught me a lot about being practical with my money and how to be wise when it comes to decision-making," says Ochoa. "I also learned a lot from my dad who is conservative with his investments."

Managing people

He adds that his dad has taught him a lot about handling businesses, such as getting your hands dirty and being able to know and appreciate what your business is all about.

"You have to know your business inside-out," says Ochoa. "In my case, I have to know how to cook and serve the ice cream. At least, when your employees see that you really understand the business, it makes it harder for them to cheat on you."

Ochoa says one of the hardest aspects in having a business is managing your people and ensuring that they will do a good job.

Hands-on

Thus, Ochoa makes it a point to regularly check on his employees.

Being hands-on with the business pays off, according to him, since it is also through this way that people will know if their business is really doing well or not.

"I don't want to be like other actors who invest their money in businesses for the glamour, just so they can say, I have this or that business," says Ochoa.

He admits that what he earns from his businesses so far is far less than what he earns as an actor.

Nevertheless, he knows.

HE'S as passionate about his business as he is about show business

PEOPLE line up for Dominic's ice drops

Asian creativity gets top marks at global ad shows

From page B2-1

second judging stint at the local Araw Awards competition.

Kitti Chaiyaporn, executive creative director of Publicis Thailand and previously with BBDO Thailand, won a Cannes Gold Lion and Silvers in One Show and in Clio for the Unif Green Tea "Worms" TV commercial. Chaiyaporn is a speaker at the Ad Congress on "Going Global by Being Local".

From Asia's biggest market

Japan, a longtime player in the advertising world stage and Asia's biggest advertising market, claimed the top prize in television at the Asia-Pacific Adfest this year for the Ajinomoto Stadium "Husky Girls" TV commercial by Dentsu Japan. TBWA Japan's Adidas outdoor spectacular "Vertical Football" was last year's Grand Clio Winner and Best of Outdoor at the Adfest. It also bagged two Gold Lions at Cannes plus a Gold at One Show.

John Merrifield, executive creative director at TBWA Japan takes credit for the Adidas outdoor piece and has been named Asia's Creative of the Year 2004. Merrifield honors the Philippines with his presence at the Philippine Ad Congress and will be sharing the lessons he learned from Cannes.

He will also serve as jury head for Print and Outdoor in the Araw Awards competition.

From slick Singapore

Singapore, being a cosmopolitan and a strong regional center for global networks, produces very slick, well-crafted press ads that dazzle many advertising juries.

This small and determined nation has delivered well against its big brothers.

One of the country's recent honors went to Ogilvy & Mather Singapore for the Economist "Brain" print ad and the Sphere Toys print and poster campaign by TBWA Singapore.

Fevicol Adhesive, Times of India, the Cancer Society in India are brands known outside the subcontinent. These brands have famous advertising that have scored across the global advertising circuit.

Indians and Kiwis

Indian advertising remains true to its culture without giving in to pressures of looking western or European to impress an international jury.

Prasoon Joshi, South Asia regional creative director at McCann-Erickson India, said he chooses to exploit the inherent "chaos" of the Indian way of life in his advertising work. One example is the Coca-Cola "Thanda Matlab" print campaign which won a Gold Lion at Cannes in 2004.

An accomplished lyricist in Indian cinema and one who has published books of poetry and prose, Joshi will head the TV jury in the Araw Awards competition and is a speaker at the Ad Congress.

For his part, Todd McCracken, regional creative director of Grey Worldwide, demonstrated what a fly sees before it gets sprayed with insecticide in a outdoor piece for Kiwi No Bugs insect spray.

The visual, a lift from a Gary Larson cartoon, won the Grand Prix in outdoor at Cannes in 2003 for Grey New Zealand. McCracken, the youngest executive creative director in New Zealand, will be among the foreign jurors in this year's Araw Awards.

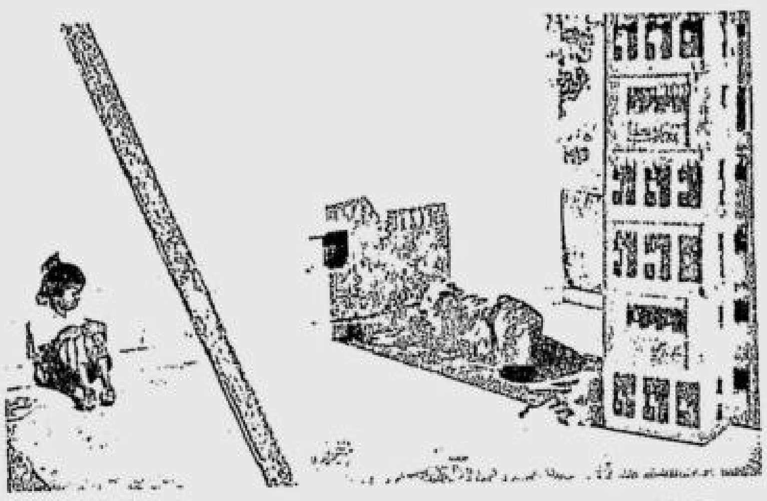
Local talent

Philippine's biggest feat is a Cannes Lion win this year, a first for the country—a Silver Lion won by BBDO Guerrero Ortega for Consuelo Foundation and Unicef's "Bunso" TV commercial.

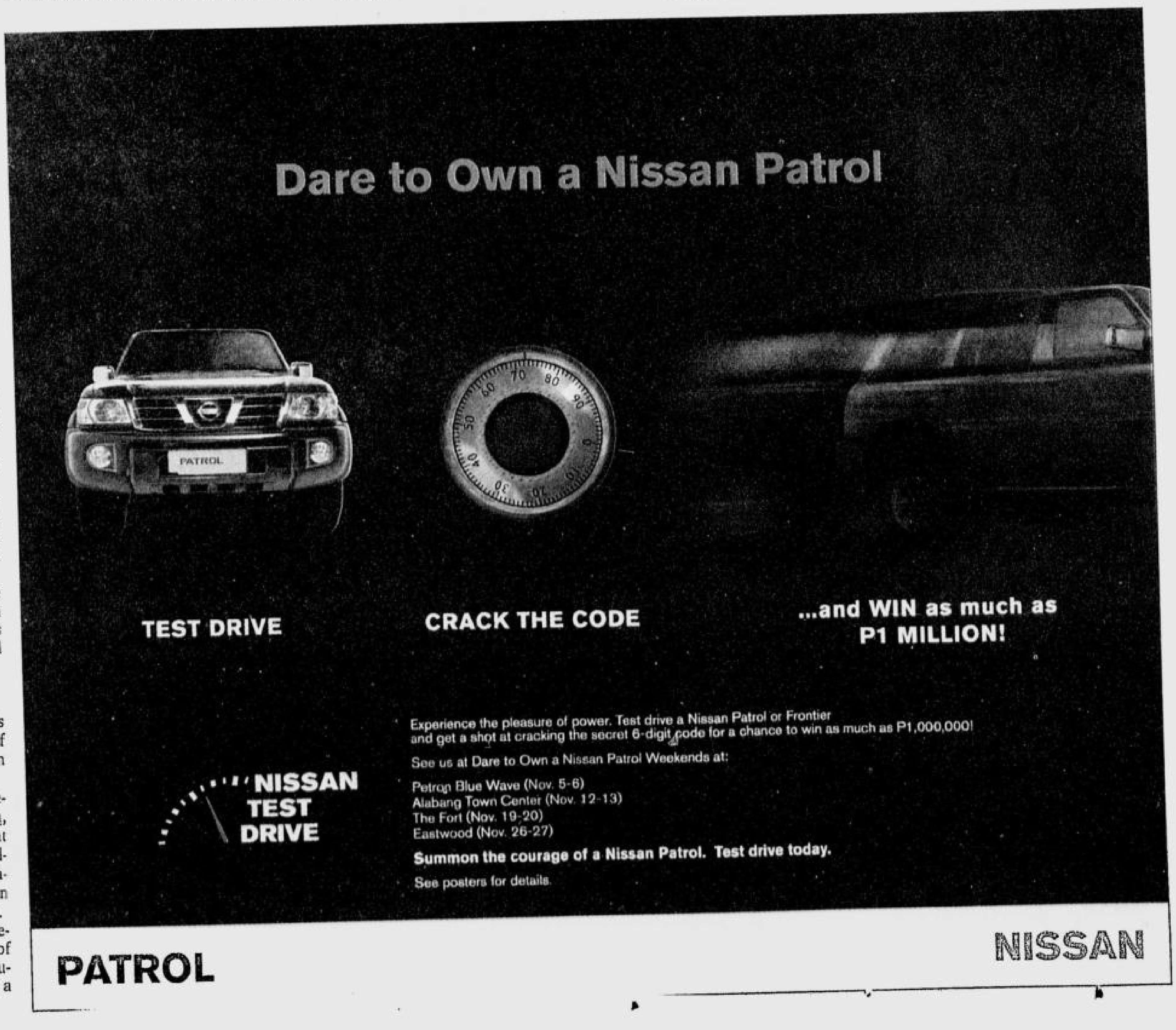
The country also boasts of a handful of Silvers and Bronzes at Clio spread over the past ten years, two mentions in the D&AD book (but no wins), and bronzes at the Adfest.

Being an English-speaking nation with a very mature advertising and marketing landscape, the Philippines should be getting better grades in advertising creativity. The country's people is also considered one of the most "talented and creative".

Filipino advertising talents are ready to have their work judged. They are ready to learn from those who have made top marks in the global advertising arena at the Philippine Advertising Congress themed, "Ready for the World?!"



MCCANN-ERICKSON India shows it like it is in India with this Coca-Cola print ad. It scored a Cannes Gold Lion.



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Retail outlet offers Filipinos' best

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

(First of two parts)

THE BEST IN PHILIPPINE products.

This is what real estate developer Ortigas and Co. wants to provide the market through its Tiendesitas development along C-5 in Quezon City.

Rex C. Drilon II, chief operating officer of Ortigas and Co., said doing so means inviting entrepreneurs from the provinces, and those just starting out, but with unique products to sell, to occupy the stalls.

Drilon said management purposely stayed away from the name local brands to give way to these entrepreneurs who can give the best of them a run for their money, if they get as much exposure to the market.

He said the unique mix of products provided by the 450 merchants helps make Tiendesitas stand out from the rest, and true to its promise to give the best of Filipino products, every day.

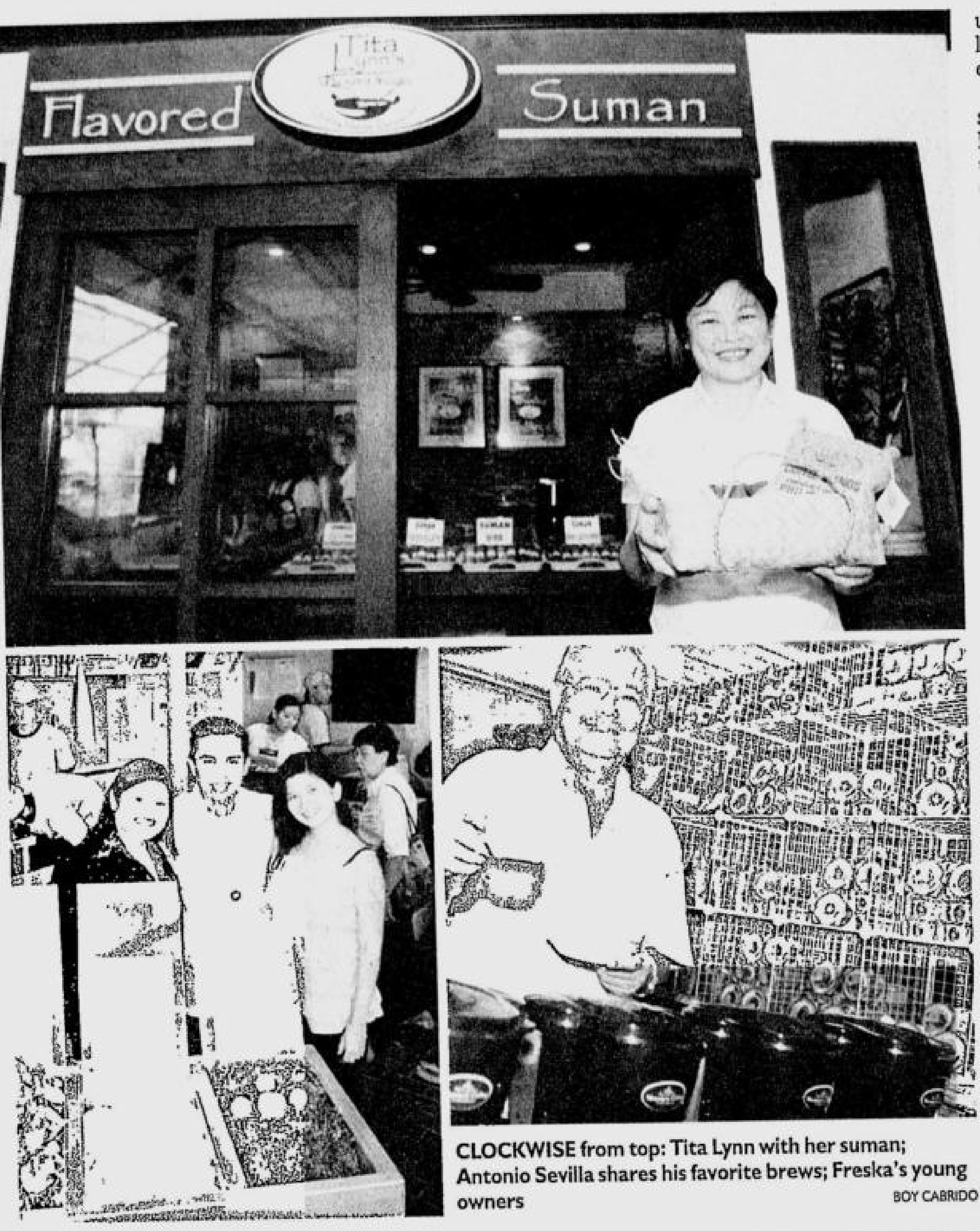
Business Friday sat down recently with some of these entrepreneurs who got their first break from Tiendesitas.

Philippine Mountain Coffee Collection

It was during a trip to the Caribbean about three years ago when businessman Antonio Q. Sevilla realized how local coffee, if properly packaged and promoted, can attract a huge local and foreign market.

If Puerto Rico and Jamaica have their blends, so should the Philippines, said Sevilla, who himself enjoys a good cup of coffee.

Coffee is an ideal export product, he said, because everybody knows the product—no need to explain its merits to the market.



CLOCKWISE from top: Tita Lynn with her suman; Antonio Sevilla shares his favorite brews; Freska's young owners

BOY CABRIDO

By putting up his own shop, he said he hoped to promote all kinds of Philippine coffee, not just the ones from Batangas and Cavite.

"People don't know that we actually have a lot of good coffee," he said.

Through his company, which opened its first outlet in Tiendesitas, he is promoting local blends such as Kalinga, Bukidnon and Cavite blends.

He is preparing the fourth one, which is coffee from Bacolod.

His clients can't wait.

Tita Lynn's Flavored Suman

Who would have thought that suman could be reinvented?

Well, Lynn Sun did, and thus was born Tita Lynn's Flavored Suman, which is also opening its first shop in the food area of Tiendesitas.

Sun learned to make suman from her parents and grandparents who hailed from Pamapanga.

But she did not think it could be a business until the late 1990s when the sumans her maids used to bring to the school of her children attracted quite a following. Soon, she was getting orders.

The business started off from there with more orders coming in through word of mouth.

The principal attraction is her incorporation of fruits and flavors in her suman, such as langka, ube, macapuno, sweet corn, kamote, red mongo and chocolate.

But she stayed true to the traditional way of preparing the suman, which has been handed down through generations.

"That's why we say it's tradition with a twist," she said.

She still prepares all the suman from home and she sells about 1,000 suman a day. She opens at past 1 o'clock in the afternoon. By 3 pm, she's sold out.

Patrons don't mind. They just come back for more.

Freska

It used to be that when you want to taste the famous seafood of Iloilo, you will have to go all the way to Iloilo.

Fortunately, restaurants serving genuine Ilonggo fare have come up in the city and one of them is Freska, a restaurant put up by longtime friends from Iloilo who wanted to share the pride of their hometown with the Manila market.

The young owners Karen Ganzon, Kim Salazar, Mark Gorriceta, Pauline Gorriceta-Banusing and Caroline Dizon said it only took them a few months to translate their dream of running a business together into reality.

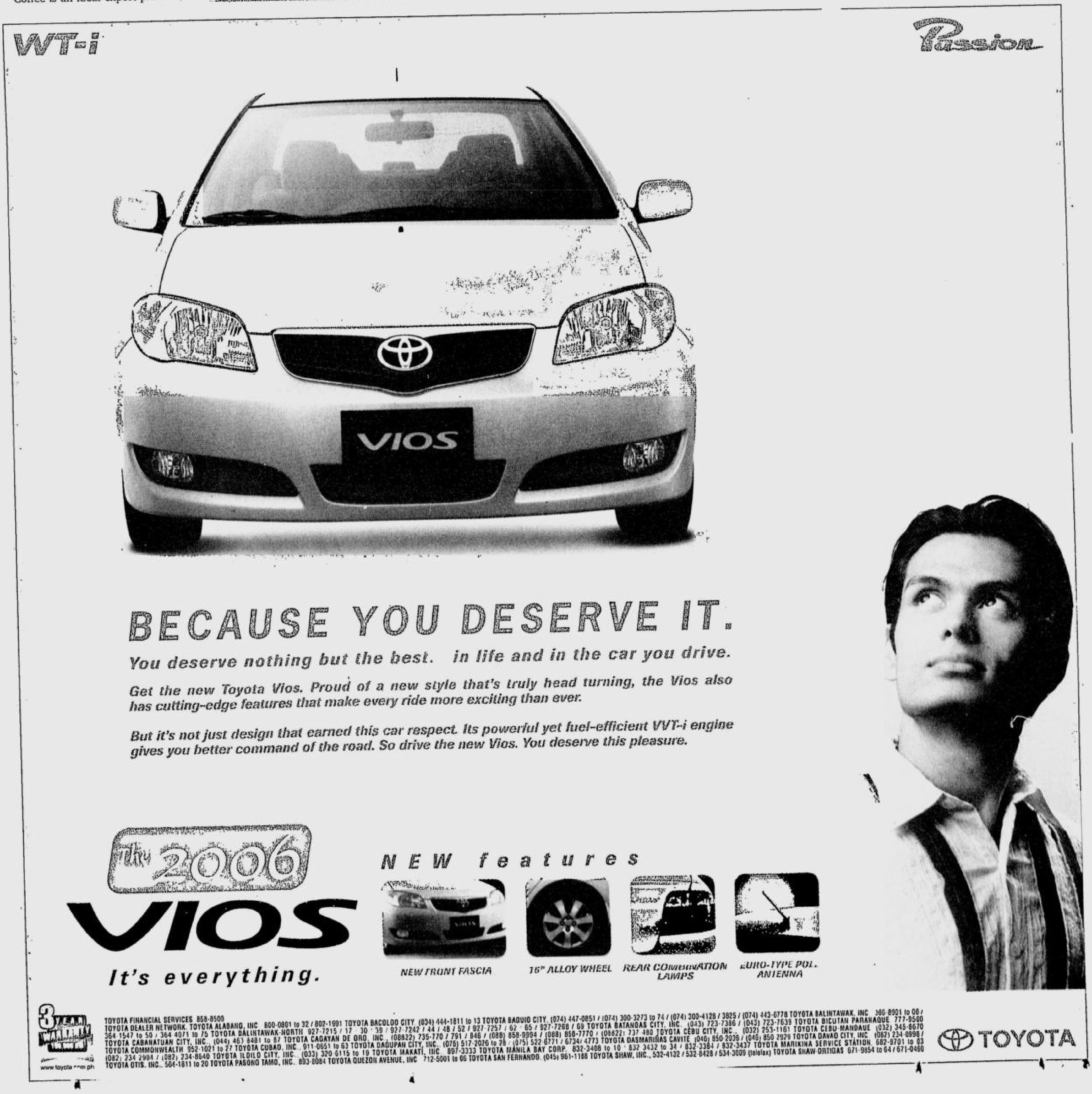
They are busy with their separate careers, but they do find the time to handle all parts of the business, such as picking up the fresh seafood from the airport every day.

"You should smell my car," says Mark, a lawyer from the Quiason Makalintal law office.

But the effort is worth it as Freska does not run out of patrons.

They come for its fresh talaba, scallops, managat (snapper) and bulgan (sea bass) done the traditional Ilonggo way.

Some businessmen have already approached the Freska owners if they wanted to open up more stores, but they prefer to grow slowly with probably two more stores, with at least one to be put up in a mall.



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BUSINESS Friday

Getting products to markets on time, all the time

LAHAT NG KAILANGAN MO... 99 PESOS LANG!

KEEPING the selling price at P99 despite spiraling costs is a challenge for P99 Store's supply chain managers.

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

IN THE IDEAL WORLD, CONSUMER GOODS will move from the manufacturer, to the distributor, and finally, the buyer, at the least possible cost.

In that world, too, supermarket and department store shelves will always have the right products at the right time. No inventory overflow, no running out of stock.

Unfortunately, the world is far from ideal.

Retailers and manufacturers have to deal with escalating transportation costs, increasing inventory and costly mismatches between demand and supply projections.

These and other factors ultimately lead to increased operating costs that wreak havoc on the retailers already thin margins because of global competition.

What Philippine companies need to do in this environment is to get as close as possible to the ideal situation by keeping a watchful eye on the links in their supply chain, to see where costs and inefficiencies can be reduced.

Retail Asia features here three of these companies that have lessons on supply chain management to share with the rest of the Philippines and Asia.

Abenson

The Abenson group did not become the country's biggest distributor of appliances and home and office furniture by accident.

It mustered a commanding lead in the race for market share in the competitive business by doing several things right: putting its stores in strategic locations, displaying goods properly and not least of all, managing its supply chain.

Abenson general manager Josephine D. Gomez said in an interview that for Abenson, managing the supply chain starts with keeping its forecasts in synch with that of its many suppliers.

In that way, Abenson and its manufacturer-suppliers, such as Sony appliances and Carrier air-conditioners, will have a clearer picture of what customers want.

"Some view supply chain as an isolated process. We look at it as a total process with demand side management," Gomez said.

Abenson started looking more closely at supply chain management five years ago when it invested in a computer system that tracks the movement of each unit in each of Abenson's 70 outlets and four Home Plus outlets.

That system was then tied up with its suppliers for exchange of data. In that way, suppliers will know the fast-moving goods and tweak their production accordingly.

"Through that strategic partnership with our suppliers, we are able to sustain the delivery of fast-moving merchandise and launch new products regularly," Gomez said.

There was a time when distributors such as Abenson and manufacturers would not even think of sharing consumer and sales data for fear of industrial espionage.

Those days are long gone because of the mutual need to cut costs and become more efficient in the face of local and foreign competition.

Gomez said Abenson wanted to eventually extend the coverage of the cooperation to include the electronic transmission of data on returned items for better customer service.

There are also plans underway for retailers to come together and set up joint warehousing and transportation operations for goods to be delivered in a faster and cheaper way.

Gomez stressed that retailers like Abenson have to always be on the lookout for ways to improve efficiencies, because there is always the danger of suppliers eventually becoming competitors if they do not keep in shape.

Improving the supply chain is one way of doing just that.

"All of these gains in efficiencies are then given back to our customers," Gomez said.

Microwarehouse

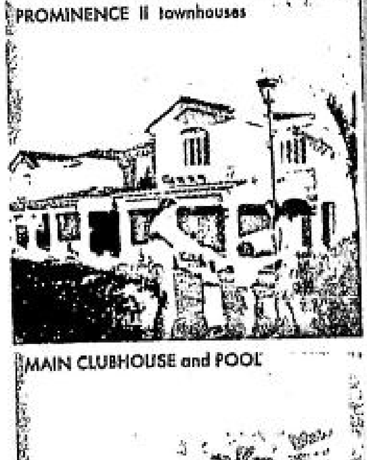
In an industry where new products and technologies flood the market every quarter, rendering the ones before them obsolete, fine tuning the supply chain becomes even more crucial.

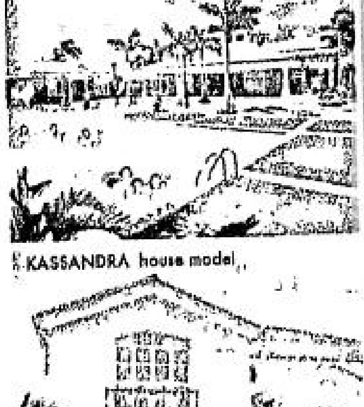
"There are new products announced every quarter, and sometimes, we find out about new products only at the time worldwide announcements are made. This makes it challenging especially if products we have on stock are suddenly obsolete because of new products released," said Microwarehouse president Cynthia Veloria.

Veloria said distributors need to have three basic components for their businesses to survive: good brands or products, competent manpower to manage the products and operations and streamlined systems and processes to manage the supply chain.

As the local distributor for products such as Apple iPod, Palm PDAs and smartphones and Linksys networking products, its supply chain

GETTING B3-2





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Old favorite puts on new face

By Amy R. Remo

THE FAMOUS mouse on Disney merchandise FRAN KATIGBAK

BY CHARTING A FAMILIAR, BUT MORE AGgressive path, Disney Consumer Products International is poised once again to win the hearts of Filipino kids and kids at heart.

Through Fun Characters Inc., its marketing licensee in the country, Disney showcased in a trade show held at Mandarin Oriental last September its nine new franchised properties along with an extensive range of new merchandise line.

Ken Chaplin, VP Asia Pacific, The Walt Disney Co., presented Disney's new lineup which includes: Witch, Disney Fairies, Disney Cuties, Baby Einstein, Chicken Little, Narnia, The Muppets, Cars and Pirates of the Caribbean.

"This new lineup would give people all over the world the chance to experience the best entertainment products that Disney can offer," said Chaplin during the Disney Tradeshow 2005.

Consumer products

Chaplin revealed that 60 percent of Disney's revenues from consumer products come from outside the US.

"With these new products, Disney reaches across all generations, ages, ethnicity and demographics. Young and old can both relate and share a Disney experience," added Chaplin.

To match the launch of these new franchised properties, Disney also launched a full merchandise line for each, which includes bags, school supplies, stationary, slippers, apparel, shirts, shoes, sleepwear and accessories.

One of Disney's newly franchised property is the Disney Cuties, a stylized version of the Disney characters sporting the now famous animé look.

With Tinkerbell (of Peter Pan) as the lead character, the Fairies novel meanwhile takes its readers through her adventures along with other fairy friends in, of course, fairy land.

All-time favorite Muppets, which is a newly acquired Jim Henson property, will make its debut on September 2006. Now part of the Disney family, Muppets will soon grace the television with its familiar witty humor complemented with classic slapstick.

Filipinos need not wait long to get the whole set of Baby Einstein products. As a leader in the Infant Developmental Media Category, Baby Einstein will soon fill up shelves with its award-winning videos, books, puppets, toys and infant products by March 2006.

This month, the heartwarming movie "Chicken Little" will be shown locally. "Chicken Little" is a touching movie about a chick who cried that the sky is falling and found the need to redeem himself, together with his friends Ugly Duckling, Runt of the Litter and Fish out of water.

New movies

Following shortly is the movie release of C.S. Lewis' "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe," the second book in the series "The Chronicles of Narnia." Set to be shown in January 2006, the movie release will likewise be complemented by a wide range of merchandise.

June 2006 will see "Cars" zooming to the screen in a comedy that features cars, which, through a series of mishaps, would learn that life is all about the journey and not just the destination. What Pixar did for the world of toys, bugs, monsters and fish, they will now do for the world of cars.

A month later, Johnny Depp's Captain Jack Sparrow returns in "Pirates of the Caribbean 2: Dead Man's Chest," together with Orlando Bloom. Viewers can expect more adventures in the sea, with new lands to conquer and more ghosts to deal with.

"Although Disney continues to be the market leader and has been reaping double-digit growth year after year, we remain aggressive with our marketing campaigns to create further awareness for these new products," said Victoria C. Salazar, FCI managing director and pioneer.

Salazar revealed that the next 12 months would be hectic and jam-packed with various activities and product launchings to accompany Disney's upcoming movies.

"With the help of our retailers and licensees, I believe we can successfully launch all these new franchised properties through strong marketing programs, compelling products and great retail presentation," she added.

Collaboration

FCI also tapped local clothing retail partners such as Bench and Kamiseta for apparel. On display at Kamiseta stores are Mickey's retro shirts while Bench was tapped for Disney Cuties.

Pooh caravans, movie premieres, school-to-school campaigns, promos, fashion shows, parties and princesses' balls mark Disney and FCI's calendar for the next 12 months.

Salazar, however, believes success will only be possible through a collaborated effort with FCI's licensees and retailers.

"This trade show is actually for the retailers and [FCI's] prospective partners," Salazar said. "We invited the retailers to see the new range of products so [this early] they can order for the Christmas season."

The Disney Tradeshow 2005 gathered the 80 companies which were granted rights to make any product with Disney characters or properties.

Salazar described the event as a venue that brings together all the Disney products under one roof.

Instead of having licensees give presentations to retailers one by one, both parties are brought together in the showcase of a full range of Disney products.

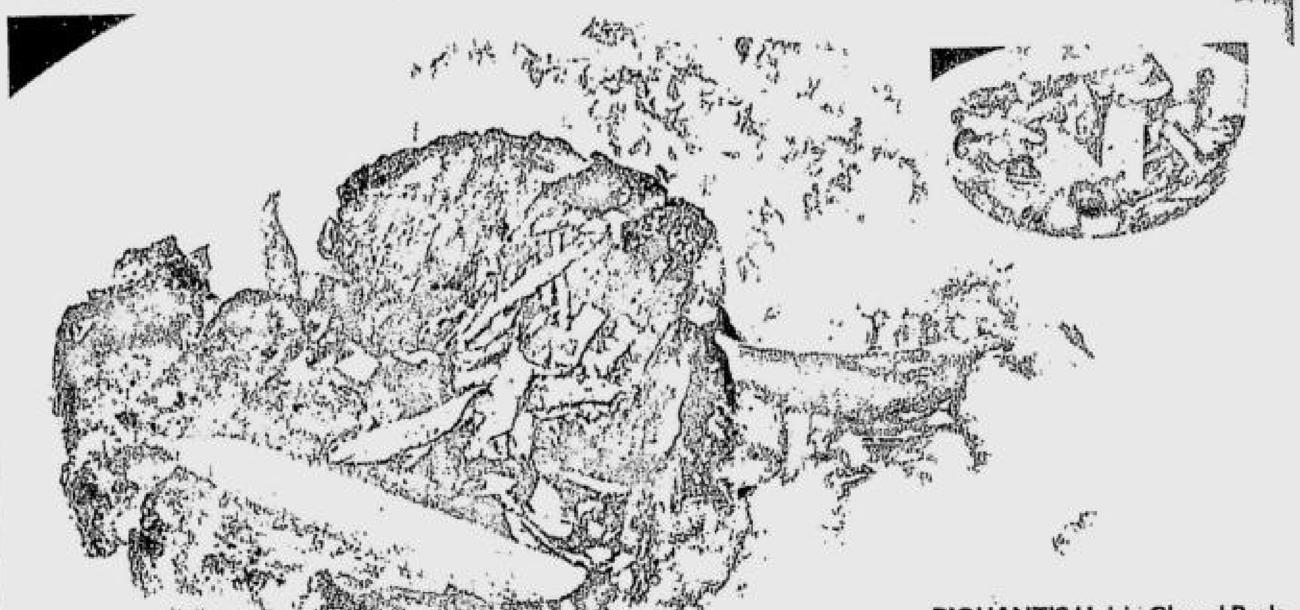
Aside from showcasing the new franchised properties and their merchandise line, the trade show also displayed old favorites like Mickey Mouse and Pooh Bear in various products—tiered cakes, soap, shoes and apparel, toys, home décor, books, paper products, interactive games, food and beverage, electronics, and even fine art.

Apart from the products, Salazar said support is also a key element in the trade show.

"We present our marketing programs to our retailers and licensees and describe the support we would be giving to the products," she explained.

Asked if producing trade shows for Disney was intimidating and difficult, Salazar replied: "No, it's not. It's just getting all your licensees' products and displaying them in one place.

With a report from Fran Katigbak


PIQUANT'S Hoisin Glazed Pork Loin with Braised Gourd and Sweet Potato Mash, and California Salad (inset). FRAN KATIGBAK

Actor performs on different stage

By Fran Katigbak

FRAN KATIGBAK

REM Zamora

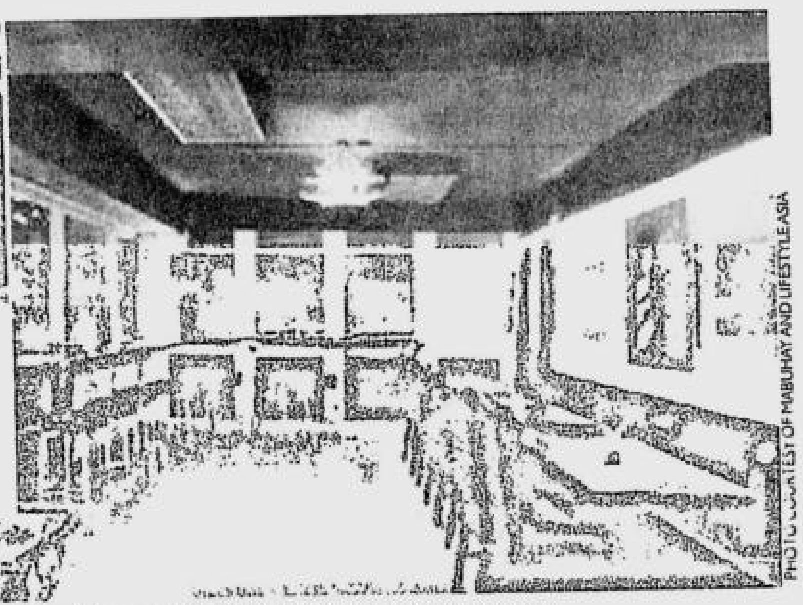


PHOTO COURTESY OF MABUHAY AND LIFESTYLE ASIA

INTERIOR of Luce, quiet and intimate alternative venue

STAGE ACTOR REM Zamora still refuses to set aside his artistic skills more than 12 years since he ventured into food business.

"There has to be something artistic about the way I run a business, otherwise I won't bother [managing it] at all," he says.

The 36-year-old is co-owner of two food establishments, restaurant Piquant and bar Luce, both of which he helped supervise in all aspects such as design, construction and operations.

While managing Piquant and Luce, Zamora is also working on two current projects of theater group Repertory Philippines.

Acting onstage has been Zamora's longtime passion and pursuit, but he admits the work pays little because opportunities are not always available.

Seeing the need for alternative sources of income was one of the reasons he entered the food business.

An Economics graduate of Ateneo, he learned the ropes of the trade through his mother and by running a Pancake House branch in Alabang.

His family used to manage the restaurant chain's corporation, which included canteens, buildings and the franchise.

Two years into the family business, however, Zamora became bored with his job.

"It's routine because everything you do is set by franchise rules," he says about managing Pancake House.

In 1993, the entrepreneur left the family business to open Insomnia, a well-known bar along Nakpil Street in Malate, which operated for eight years.

Later on, he started another club called Orange, but closed it down in 2003.

Piquant and Luce opened early this year.

Located at the RCBC Plaza along Ayala Avenue in Makati City, Piquant was inspired by a health program the actor took at the gym.

Zamora and business partner Danette Holmes put up capital of about P2 million for the restaurant.

At the onset, the co-owners worried that the investment was more than what they bargained for and that they might have difficulty attracting patrons.

But the owners need not have worried.

With eating and living healthy becoming a trend, the time was perfect to open Piquant as demand for restaurants that served healthy food increased.

Although Piquant's menu primarily targets people who watch their diets, Zamora says even less health-conscious clients dine at the restaurant.

Piquant addresses the misconception that healthy food is bland, he adds.

The restaurant serves "normal" food such as chicken, pork, beef and pasta—prepared through healthy, low-fat means.

As much as possible, all the dishes are grilled, using only canola oil, olive oil, and lean cuts of meat.

Luce, on the other hand, was initially managed by Zamora with less enthusiasm.

"I wanted a peaceful life [with] no more late nights out," he said. "I had already managed a club and a bar, both of which were big, busy and demanded too much work."

Yet, when the actor-businessman saw the venue at Montivar Bldg. along Jupiter Street, he realized its potential as a cozy and manageable watering hole.

Along with partners Jimbo Aragon, Boompy Martel and Rafa Montilla, Zamora transformed Luce into a quiet and intimate alternative venue with capital of under P500,000.

Zamora says despite budget restrictions, they were able to design the place without compromising the look and atmosphere they were aiming for.

Each one contributed decorative pieces they owned or recycled items from previous businesses to the bar.

Luce, which comfortably fits 50 people, accepts bookings for private parties, birthday celebrations, corporate functions and other events. It doesn't rely on walk-in patrons.

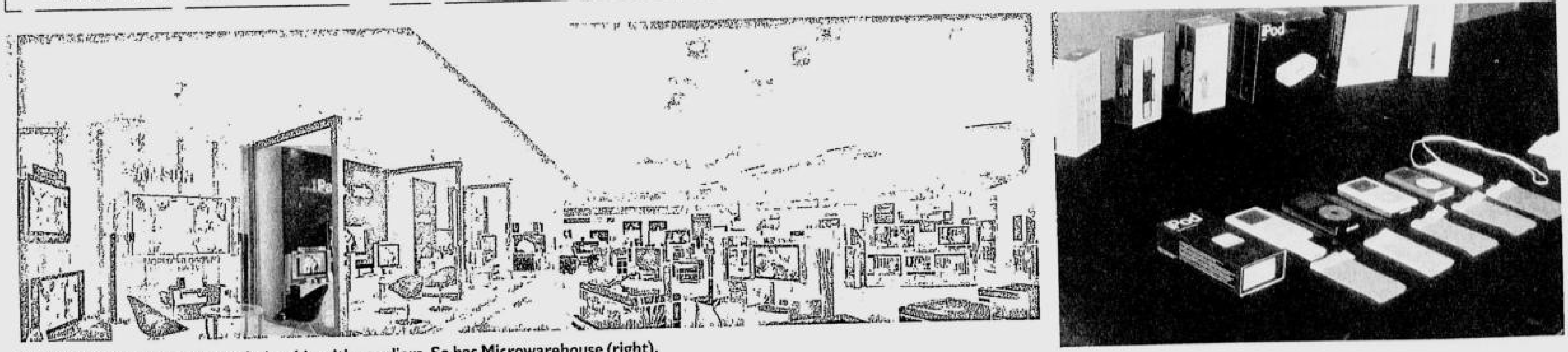
Events with more guests can be accommodated through a special arrangement with Luce to rent the Montivar Building rooftop, which offers a view of the Makati Skyline.

"I don't see Luce expanding any more than it is," says Zamora, who wants to maintain the romanticism of the bar.

Yet the actor-entrepreneur considers Luce's crispy *pata*—one of the recipes he took from the defunct Insomnia Café—the best in town and plans to sell it in small takeout outlets in the future.

He says a businessman should not deliver a product he doesn't believe in.

"It's a juggling act which is tiring," he said, referring to managing two businesses and theater projects. "But if I just work on the businesses and don't do theater, I'll go just as crazy because I need an outlet for creativity."


ABENSON has forged a close relationship with suppliers. So has Microwarehouse (right).

Getting products ...

From page B3-1

starts with the suppliers abroad and ends with the dealers and resellers all over the country.

One of the major initiatives to cut costs across the supply chain is to plan orders from suppliers more efficiently to maintain just a four- to six-week inventory level.

Veloria said product managers handle inventory management, from order planning to program development to keep a tight rein on inventory.

The sales team then pushes the products to resellers based on quarterly sales forecasts.

These are done by analyzing dealer performance over time as well as agreeing with dealers on the product potential.

Microwarehouse cut one link in its supply chain when it decided recently to outsource the warehousing and delivery side of the business to concentrate its resources in sales and marketing.

And it added itself to a growing list of companies that have invested in an enterprise resource planning system.

Veloria said this gives Microwarehouse reliable and updated information needed to monitor performance and to make quick and correct decisions.

Microwarehouse is challenged by market conditions that require companies to work even harder to push sales.

"We used to get by with monthly face-to-face meetings with key customers to keep the business going, now our sales force has to call on clients more frequently," she said.

"With 10 suppliers beating on dealers' doors, we have to keep up with the demands of selling. One of our key strategies has been to get top brands in a product category. Then instead of working hard on pushing the brand, we work with our dealers on programs to sell our products better," she added.

Efficiencies are also demanded by shrinking profit margins.

Veloria said that sometimes, profit increases remain marginal despite the doubling of sales volumes.

"A lot of effort and money has to be spent on sales, marketing and support services. Improvements in stock levels and accounts receivables have an immediate impact on our operations, so we try to manage these as well," she said.

P99 Store

To say that it's difficult to sell quality goods at one price of P99 in the Philippines is an understatement. Being an archipelago, logistics costs are considerable.

But the P99 Store has been able to continue putting out products at the affordable price by keeping an efficient supply chain.

P99 Store owner Eric Teng said in an interview that one of its ways to cut costs was to take advantage of the logistics strength of its suppliers.

"Since speed is a major component in our purchasing decisions, buying from local suppliers then would mean our stores are nearer to the source of goods, thereby cutting time lost and thus cost," he said. "We also have consignors in our store floor who handle the transport and distribution of their own inventory, thus reducing our inventory handling costs."

"Lastly, we've created something called The P99 rolling store where we take our delivery trucks and convert them into stores, bringing goods to the customers wherever they are," Teng added.

With the rolling store, the company can easily reach viable markets in the provinces at less cost than putting up a stand-alone store.

Teng stressed that in the Philippines with its 7,100 islands, it was crucial to find a way to reduce transport and logistics costs considering that the country lacks a well-developed and integrated infrastructure to speed up delivery of goods and services.

"[Supply chain management] may have become more complex as we open more stores in far flung rural areas. We have more customers to serve now in a shorter period of time. And as the competition improves, so must we," he said.

Profit, he said, was the main motivation to improving supply chain as efficiencies directly translate into improved margins.

"The P99 Store cannot raise its prices. Our profits therefore will grow by improving efficiencies across the board," he explained.

"Getting the right goods at the right quantity to the right customers at the right time will always require the retailer's constant attention. The less waste of time and energy during the supply chain process, the more money earned," he added.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
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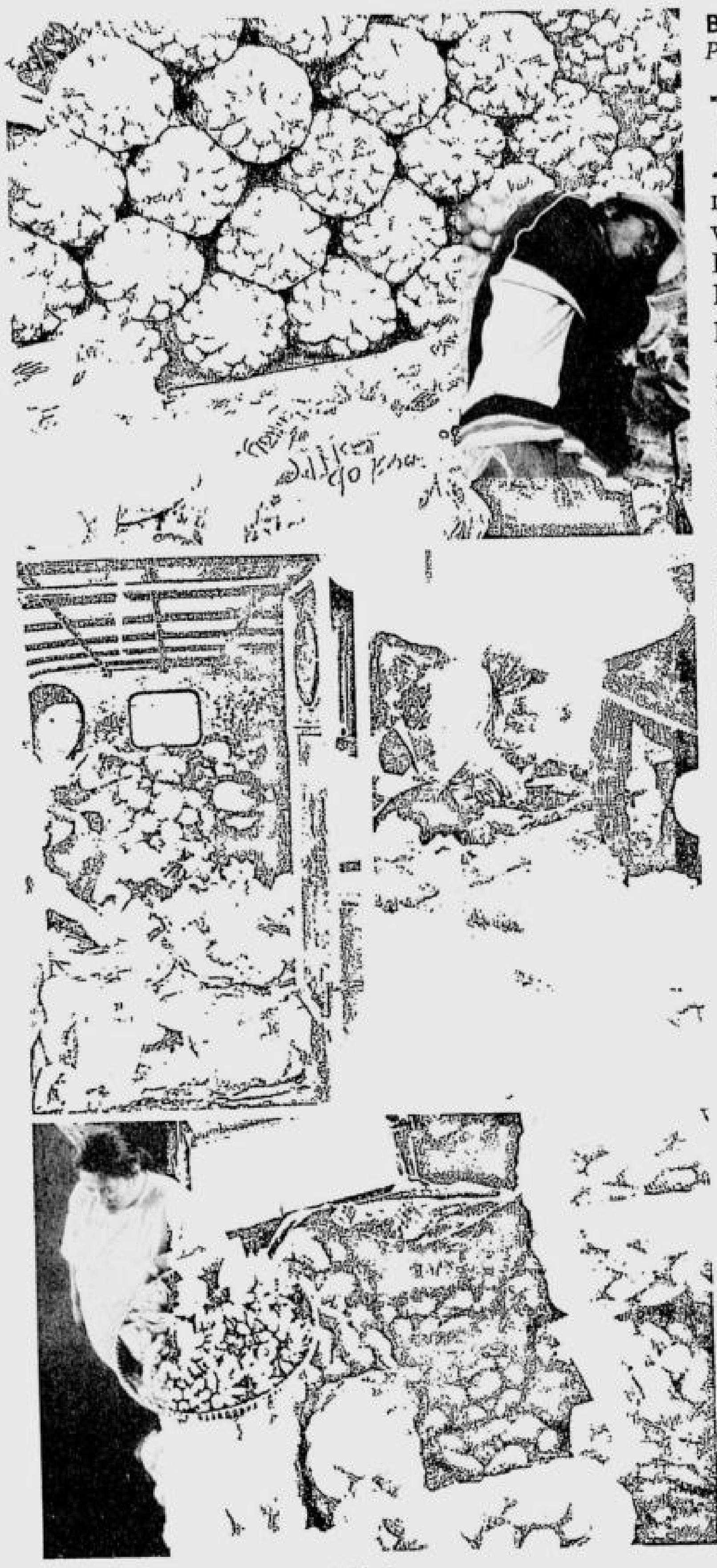
There goes the vegetables



ALL IN A DAY'S work in La Trinidad

By Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

LA TRINIDAD, Benguet—President Macapagal-Arroyo must always be fearful whenever Ibaloi and Kankanaey farmers of Benguet begin to complain.

Vegetable farmers here led the first outcry against her globalization policies in 2002 when they protested the entry of smuggled Chinese, Australian and European vegetables into Metro Manila's markets.

Their protests snowballed into a national campaign to protect the vegetable industry, and had led the campaign for reforms in government's agricultural policies.

For Benguet, the stakes go back to almost a century.

At the turn of the 20th century, Chinese settlers introduced vegetable farming to their Ibaloi neighbors after they helped build Kennon Road that linked the Cordilleras to Metro Manila.

The American colonial government also introduced modern mining techniques to supplement the Ibalois' traditional gold panning technology.

Ernesto Rodriguez, president of the Philippine Mine Safety and Environment Association (PMSEA), said this marriage of industries helped Benguet become a major supply source of Metro Manila in the last 100 years.

Benguet's capital town of La Trinidad has become the principal trading post for the 176 tons of salad vegetables, which the province's 27,491 farms produce daily.

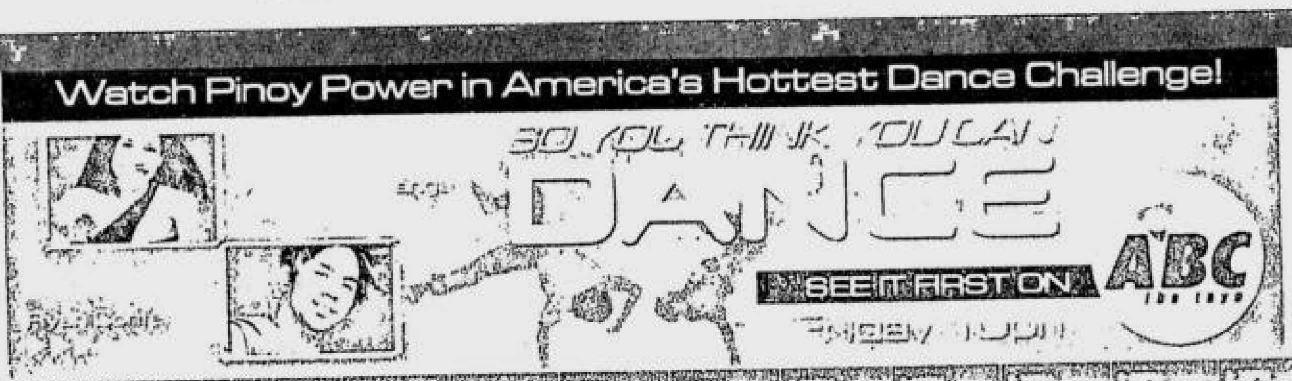
Around 90 percent of Metro Manila's vegetable supply comes from this province, much as it used to rely on some of the oldest mines in Benguet for gold and silver.

It's a role Benguet continues to play for Luzon, despite the challenges posed by smuggling and the value added tax.

LA TRINIDAD, the center of vegetable trading in the Philippines.

PHOTOS BY EV ESPIRITU

BENGUET has been a major supplier of vegetables for 100 years.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MYX	Rock MYX My MYX Mellow MYX Urban MYX Take 5 OPM MYX Star MYX MYXILOG Pop MYX MYX Daily Top Ten Club MYX MYX Versions Urban MYX My MYX MYX Backtrax OPM MYX
CNN	Business International World News World Sport Larry King Live Business International World News World Sport World News Asia World News World Sport World News Asia Your World Today
ESPN	World Tenpin Masters '05 Pool: Snooker World Pool League '05 Asian X Games '05 Presented by Kia LPGA Tournament of Champs 4th rd. English Premier League Preview Sportscenter Asia Pool: Snooker World Pool League '05 LPGA Tournament of Champs 4th rd Sportscenter Asia
Solar Sports	2005 US Open 9-Ball C'ship FIVB World Champ Cup Women's Event Sports Desk
Sports Plus	NFL 2005 New England @ Miami BD Bikini Network.com Lock & Load II Raceworld World Golf C'ships Algarve World Cup Day1
Cinemax	Paradise, Hawaiian Style Keeper Of The City Hulk (6:45 PM) Boiling Point Wonderland (10:35PM)
Hallmark Channel	Bewitched Judging Amy HCA The Fairytaler Sesame Street Mad About You Bewitched The Nanny Mysterious Way Judging Amy Cupid & Cate Wife Swap (10:35PM) Mysterious Way
Disney Channel	Mr Bean The Animated Series Totally Spies Art Attack/Untalkative Bunny Mickey Mouse and Friends Lilo & Stitch Sabrina The Animated Series Totally Spies Kim Possible Mr Bean The Animated Series That's So Raven Wonderful World Of Disney Brandy & Mr. Whiskers Mickey Mouse and Friends Chip N Dale's Rescue Rangers Wonderful World Of Disney
Discovery Channel	Power Zone Wild Discovery Deadliest Catch The Most Extreme American Chopper Wild Science Speed Week Crime Night
National Geographic	Tattoo Touch, The Forgotten Sense Sacred Skin Top 5 Wow! About Asia Nat'l Geographic Specials Amazing Moments True Face Of Humanoids
Cartoon Network	Yogi Bear Show The All New Popeye Show Tom & Jerry Show Baby Looney Tunes What's New Scooby Doo? Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles Justice League Unlimited The Batman Battle B-Daman Machine Robo Rescue Johnny Bravo Courage The Cowardly Dog The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy Samurai Jack Mike, Lu & Og Time Squad Justice League Unlimited The Batman
Nickelodeon	Blues Clues/ What Planet Are You From Rugrats Hey Arnold! My Life As A Teenage Robot/ Right On Top The Adventures Of Jimmy Neutron SpongeBob SquarePants The Fairly Odd Parents All That Naturally Sadie Romeo Drake & Josh The Fairly Odd Parents All Grown Up As Told By Ginger Rocket Power Chalkzone The Wild Thornberrys The Angry Beavers The Brothers Garcia
Lifestyle Network	Country Style Interiors By Design Decorating With Style Decorating Cents Moto Mario Sweet Dreams 30 Minute Meals Bill Boggs Corner Unwrapped Ming's Quest Intimate Portrait Behind The Velvet Ropes Life & Style Guess Who's Coming To Decorate Iron Chef America
Star World	The Bold & The Beautiful Hollywood Squares Whose Line Is It Anyway? Angel The Simpsons Malcolm In The Middle Star News Asia Friends TNA Wrestling The Collector/ Miss Earth Angel Friends Ultimate Force
AXN	24 24 Gamemax Hollywood's Greatest Stunts Bustmaster The Outer Limits (Season IV) Mondo Magic E Buzz So Close Double Team
JackTV	Family Guy Stripperella The Sib Show WWE Smackdown Sweat Just For Laughs (Gags) Mad TV Joe Schmo Show WWE ECW 2005 Worst Case Scenario
ETC	Simple Life Knock First 1 Hr Edited Version Of Today Show Elimidate Change of Heart Seinfeld Ambush Makeover Arrested Development GBB Joan Of Arcadia Average Joe Entertainment Tonight The Insider The Tonight Show With Jay Leno
HBO	Superman II (2:55 PM) Mack The Knife Kazaam The Big Preview: Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire The Flintstones (Movie) Eraser Out Of Reach (10:45PM)
Star Movies	Saving Jessica Lynch Father of the Bride (5:40 PM) Beethoven's 2nd Agent Cody Banks
Cinema One	Buhay Artista Ngayong Nandito Ka Working Girls 2 Pasiban Di Pwedeng Hindi Pwede
EWTN	The Word Was Made Flesh Angelus (3:15 PM) The Donut Man Angel Force Suffering And The Love Of God Rosary With Mother Angelica Stations Of The Cross EWTN Gallery Super Saints Life on The Rock Encore Marriage Works in Christ Defending Life Daily Mass (SAP) Live Angelus (10:15PM) Holy Spirit In The Church Father Corapi And The Catechism Of The Catholic Church

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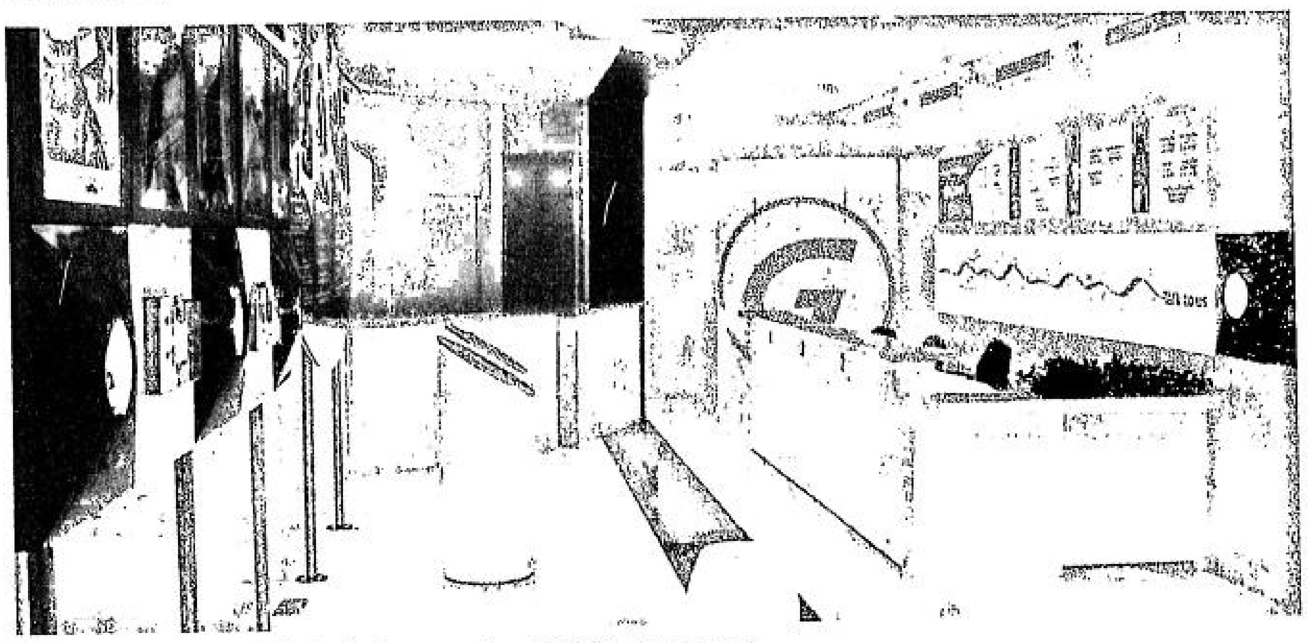
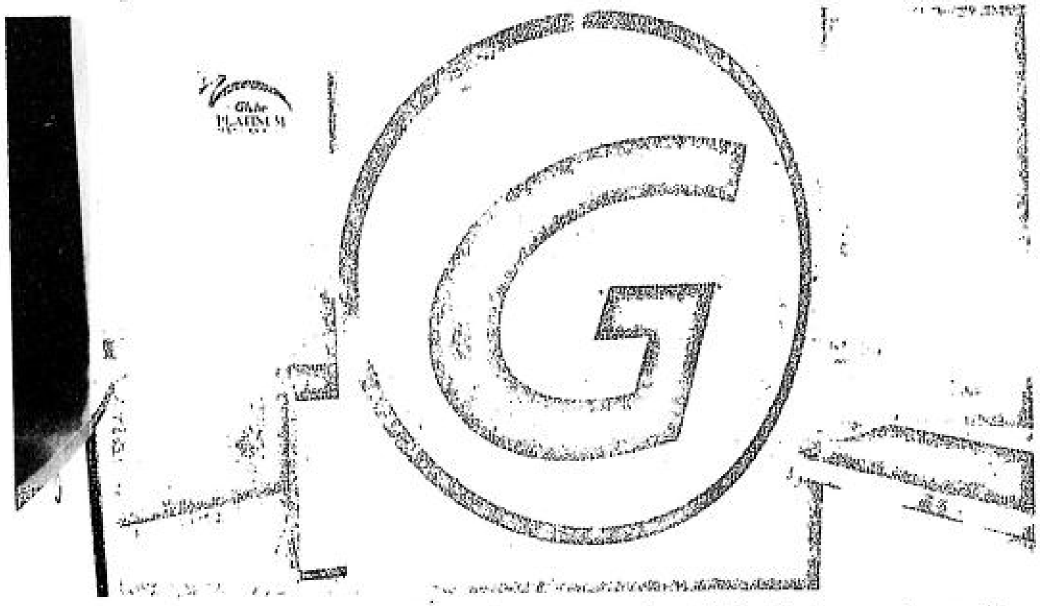


A CLEAN, well-lighted Globe business center at SM City San Lazaro



THE G SYMBOL has found a place of honor in an opaque glass divider that conceals a small office for Globe Platinum subscribers.

Clean, clutter-free marvel

Text by Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan

THE PLACE IS WHITE, BLUE AND well-lighted.

Globe Telecom, one of the country's leading cell phone providers, has recently tapped the services of furniture and interior designer Ito Kish of Gallano Design to revamp its 80 business centers nationwide.

From the previous gray, dimly lighted venues with stainless steel and glass-topped service pods, Globe's new look is anchored on white and blue, the company's corporate colors. Around 12 of its business centers, mostly those built from the ground up, now sport the new streamlined and clutter-free look.

One such business center, featured in this article, is located at SM City San Lazaro.

"We expect to finish the makeover within the next six months," says Kish.

In lieu of service pods and outdated sofas, Kish designed white barrel chairs painted in automotive paint. The same material, this time in blue, was used to coat a series of pyramid-like showcases on the walls.

"Since this is a high-traffic area, I chose automotive paint because it doesn't fade easily," says Kish.

For the business center's floors and walls, Kish used white epoxy paint. To keep the look from becoming too stark, he accented it with a strip of studded rubber tile in cobalt blue that runs the entire length and breadth of the floor and ceiling.

The designer's extensive experience as a visual merchandiser is evident in such devices as a series of showcases, which features the latest cell phone models, and several poster and leaflet holders. On one side of the business center is a pair of touch screens that provide more information.

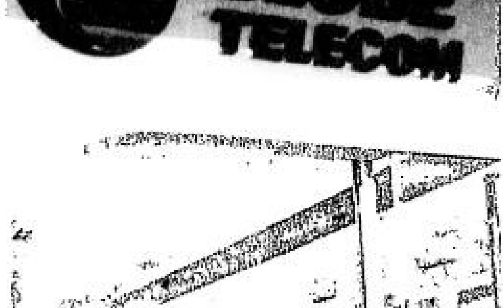
Several of Globe's iconic symbols are also incorporated in the design. The long, blue ribbon, for instance, is featured on a lighted wall accent behind the customer care counter. The same lighted accent is repeated just below the cashier counter's ledge.

Meanwhile, the ubiquitous G has been magnified a hundred times and has now found a place of honor in an opaque glass panel. Behind the divider is a small office where a customer representative attends to high-end Platinum subscribers.

A smaller glass panel leading to a bigger office is embellished with a frosted design inspired by the SIM card. Remember, while others were still into analog technology, Globe was already making strides in digital telecommunications in the country.

Mood lighting was junked in favor of energy-saving "Mentos" lights inspired by the configuration of certain constellations. Globe's SM San Lazaro branch, for instance, features floating light patterned after Ursa Minor.

"It's a fitting symbol to what Globe does," says Kish, referring to the lights. "It symbolizes what's out there. After all, the possibilities as far as telecommunications go are infinite."



THE WHITE-AND-BLUE venue features, among other things, a customer-care counter, studded rubber tiles, barrel chairs and pyramid-like cell phone showcases.

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Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**

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LIFESTYLE

MONDAY **ARTS & BOOKS** • TUESDAY **FITNESS** • WEDN
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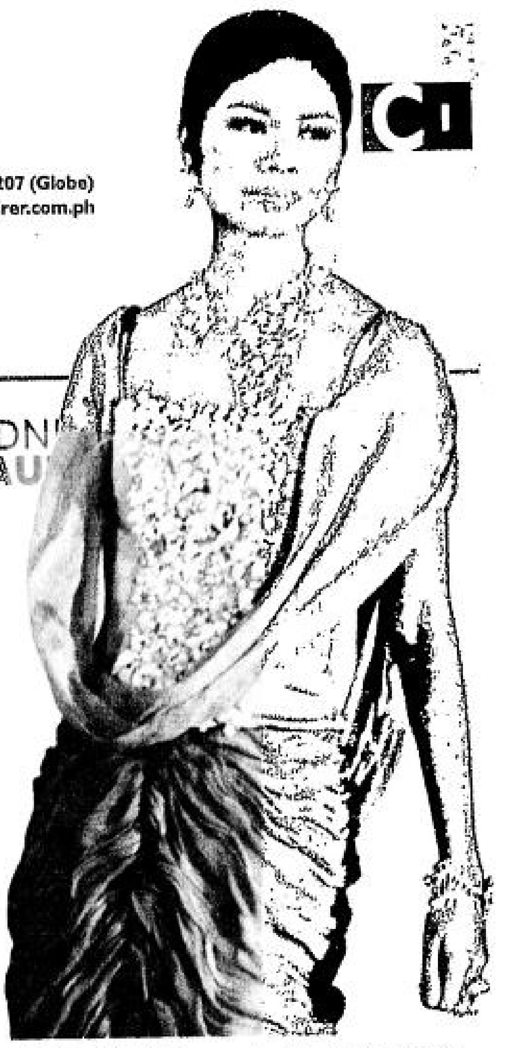
KATRINA and Jean Goulbourn take a bow.

Fashion on fire

Jean and Katrina Goulbourn's "Tapestry," divided into segments inspired by the elements, was equal parts fashion show and fabric exhibit



SEMI-BEADED corset with crinkled skirt designed to simulate waves

Text by Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Karl Sumbeling

CHRISTMAS CAME A month early at the Ayala Museum as the mother-and-daughter team of Jean and Katrina Goulbourn recently unfurled their version of "Tapestry" in a 60-piece collection using richly textured and often colorful and beaded fabrics by Silk Cocoon.

Silk Cocoon, of course, is the company Jean founded 11 years ago as an extension of her creativity and foresight, which began several decades earlier with her own RTW line for SM.

Instead of getting bogged down by the dearth of quality local fabrics, Jean and her collaborators put matters into their own hands by making their own materials.

Over the years, Silk Cocoon has grown to provide buyers abroad with such fabrics as *piña* silk and its various permutations both for fashion and the home. Katrina is primarily in charge of Silk Cocoon's bridal business, which also churns out modern and stylized barongs.

The Goulbourns now employ close to 80 people, 60 of whom work at their factory. Almost 80 percent of the company's output is exported abroad.

But as one observer said, the family tradition of pushing the envelope as far as fashion is concerned dates back much earlier to fashion designer Salvacion Lim-Higgins, Jean's late aunt, who founded Slim's Fashion School.

Fashion and fabric show

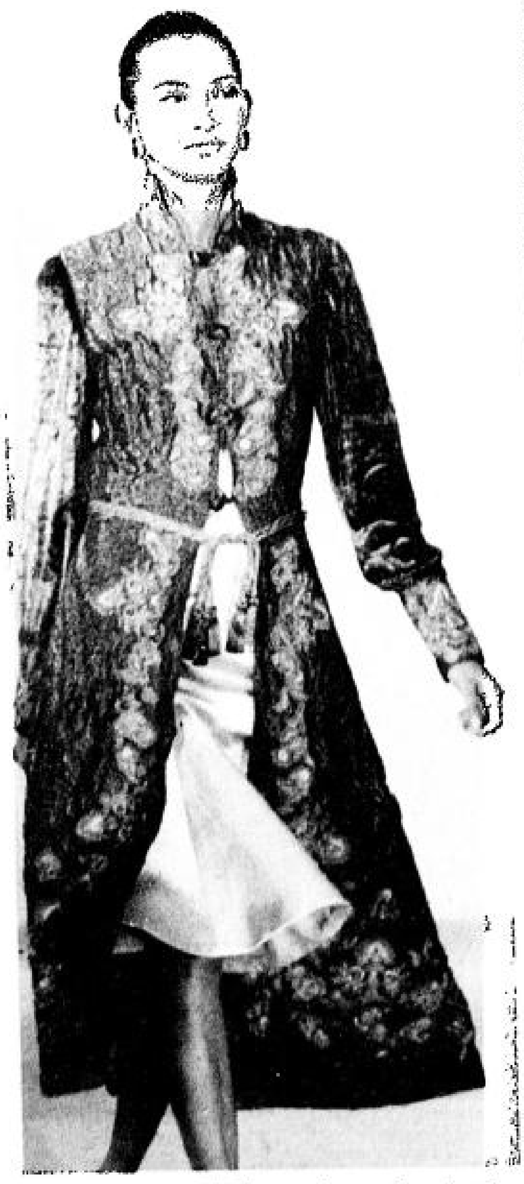
The show, which director Robby Carmona divided into several segments inspired by the elements, was equal parts fashion show and fabric exhibit.

The wood segment, for instance, featured a couple of columns made of cotton and strips of leather in jungle shades such as chocolate brown and leafy green. The styling, from the towering headdress to the super-chunky wooden bangles and chokers, had an African feel to it reminiscent of outfits worn by Erykah Badu.

Actually, said Katrina, the particular fabric was meant for furniture. Due to the venue's limited space, however, they weren't able to stage a multimedia show to showcase the material's various uses.

"Except for the satin and velvet, all the fabrics that were featured in the show were

FASHION/ C2



RUSSIAN-INSPIRED coatdress of crushed *piña* embellished with embroidery and silk copper applique

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LIFESTYLE
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2005

A ROSE of a skirt

EVERGREEN

TATTOOED look

FORM-FLATTERING

Fashion on fire

AFRICAN-INSPIRED column of strips of leather and cotton

BEADED cape for a '50s feel

LAYERED in rich fabrics

TIERS and tassels swing to a Latin beat.

ERYKAH Badu chic

From page C1

ours," Katrina said. "But we did our own dyeing to achieve the colors we wanted."

While the air portion featured gowns and separates made from yards upon yards of deconstructed *piña* silk to simulate a light, buoyant feel, the metal portion shimmered in rich, delicious details courtesy of colorful crushed *piña* embellished with embroidery and appliqué fashioned from metallic silk.

The undulating waves of water, captured in draped, architectural and beaded blue *piña* numbers, was an ideal foil to the show's fire segment, which consisted of silk separates made livelier by *callado* embroidery and bits of brocade.

Layered pieces

Not a few of the pieces in the collection, especially the layered pieces and ruched and strapless peplums, were meant for the statuesque woman. In fact, I found a few of the heavy pieces a bit too flamboyant and unflattering to the female figure, even on certain models.

This was probably the reason why the Goulbourns made "real" people such as Celine Lopez, Jenni Epperson, Maurice Arcache, Tina Tinio, Xeng Zulueta and JR Isaac, among others, wear their clothes.

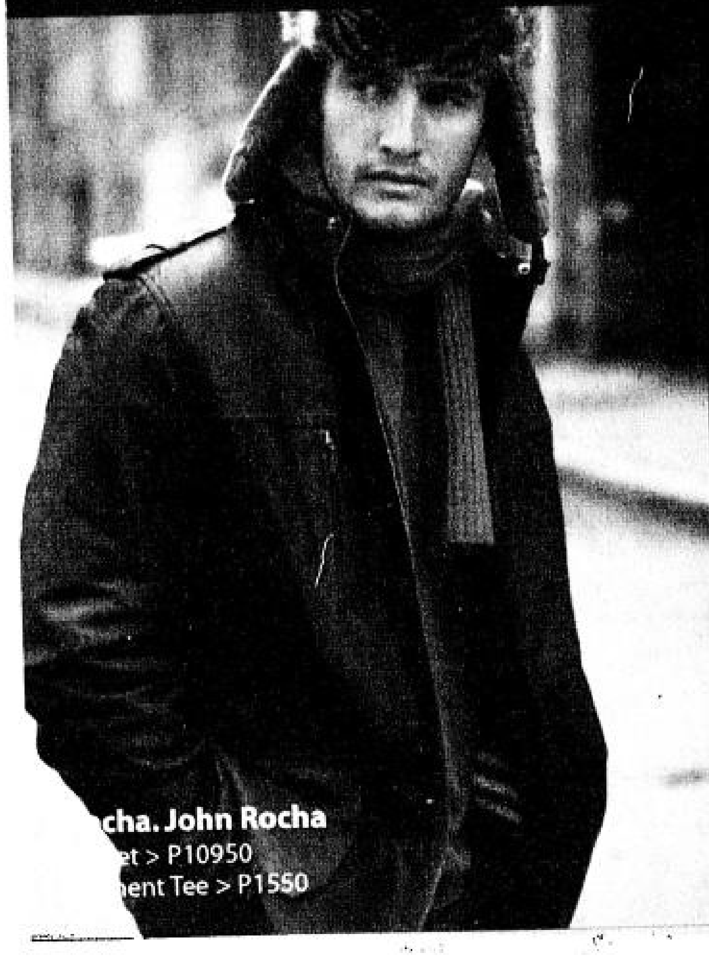
Manila's prominent movers and shakers played to the gallery in toned-down fineries grouped under the show's earth segment. Barongs in pale natural silk worn later by professional male models also exuded their own brand of magic.

One of my favorites, however, was the colored barong portion consisting of beaded pieces inspired by tattoos and not Indian patterns as I earlier surmised. In lieu of embroidery, the Goulbourns made use of coco shells and sequins to embellish their creations.

Such unusual, if a bit daring, pieces were certainly not meant for the shy. If anything, they were probably just in keeping with the spirit that has kept the fire of creativity burning in the house of Lim-Goulbourn for three generations now.

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph

Living In Style



cha. John Rocha
et > P10950
ment Tee > P1550

Butterfly by Matthew Williamson
Lace [illegible] Victoriana Top > P2450

Butterfly by Matth[illegible]

Exclusive collections from Britain's top designers

JASPER J CONRAN

STAR BY julienmacdonald

butterfly by MATTHEW WILLIAMSON

ROCHA.JOHN ROCHA

Antoni + Alison

BETTY JACKSON. BLACK

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Janet Reger

St. George by Duffer

Contemporary fashion from Debenhams own brands

MAINE NEW ENGLAND

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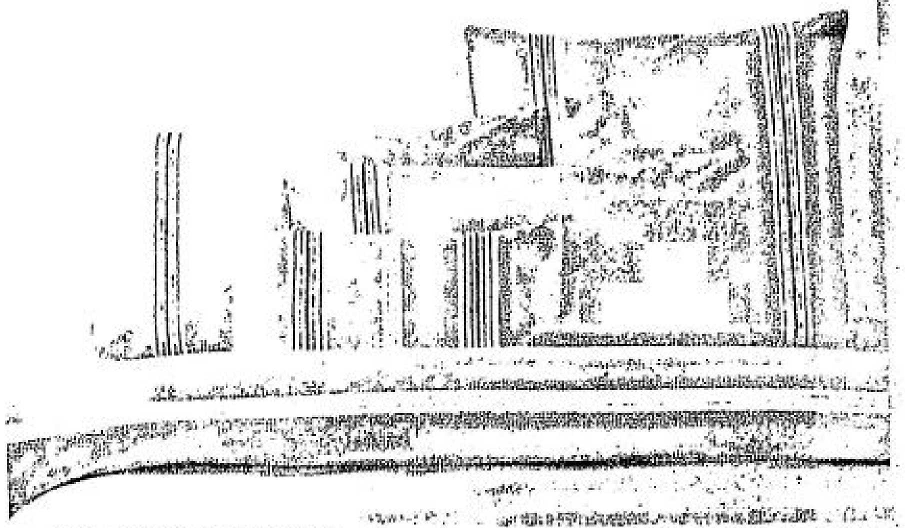

Jasper Conran Home
Jasper Conran Silver Inset Duvet Cover (King) > P5950
Jasper Conran Silver Inset Pillowcases > P1250

Junior J *by* **Jasper Conran**
Mock Sleeved Top > P895 / P995
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> P995 / P1150

John Rocha Bath Robe > P2550
Hand Towels > P595
Bath Towels > P1150
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Respected designer and entrepreneur Federico Massacessi founded Anonimo in Florence, Italy, in 1997. Anonimo watches are strictly mechanical and manufactured in high-quality stainless steel.

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For 2005, Anonimo, together with former Panerai Chair Coll. Dott. Dino Zei, reconnects the master of Florentine Militare watch-making with many of its original craftsmen.

Dino Zei was born in Viterbo in 1931. His last assignment in the Navy began in 1968 with the double position of head of the Weapons and Explosives Section of the Navy Commandos and Divers Headquarters ("Teseo Tesei") and head of the Ammunition Section of the Institute for Weapons, Ammunition and Missiles of the Standing Committee for the Experimentation on War Materials. In 1969, he became director of the Center of Studies of the Navy Commandos and Divers Headquarters.

In 1972, after Guisseppe Panerai's death, he left the Navy to take up the management of Guido Panerai e Figlio, a Florence-based company engaged in important and extremely delicate work for the Special Units of the Navy. That same year, he established and became sole director of Officine Panerai Srl. which took over all the activities and industrial capabilities of Guido Panerai.

He became chair of Officine Panerai SpA, until the watch division and trademark were sold to Cartier. He covered this position for the Panerai Sistemi SpA until 1999, when the business was transferred to the Bologna-based company Calzoni. He currently lives in Florence.

The Dino Zei line by Anonimo is totally dedicated to the principles of value and innovation which are the foundation of all Anonimo creations. It comes in new shapes that use advanced movements and rare caliber positions.

Anonimo watches are exclusively available at Rafael Jewellery Store at 2/L, Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Edsa cor. Shaw Blvd. Mandaluyong City. Call 6363398 to 99.

Dino Zei
Made in Italy

DINO Zei watch (back)

PROFESSIONALE

LA PROFESIONALE

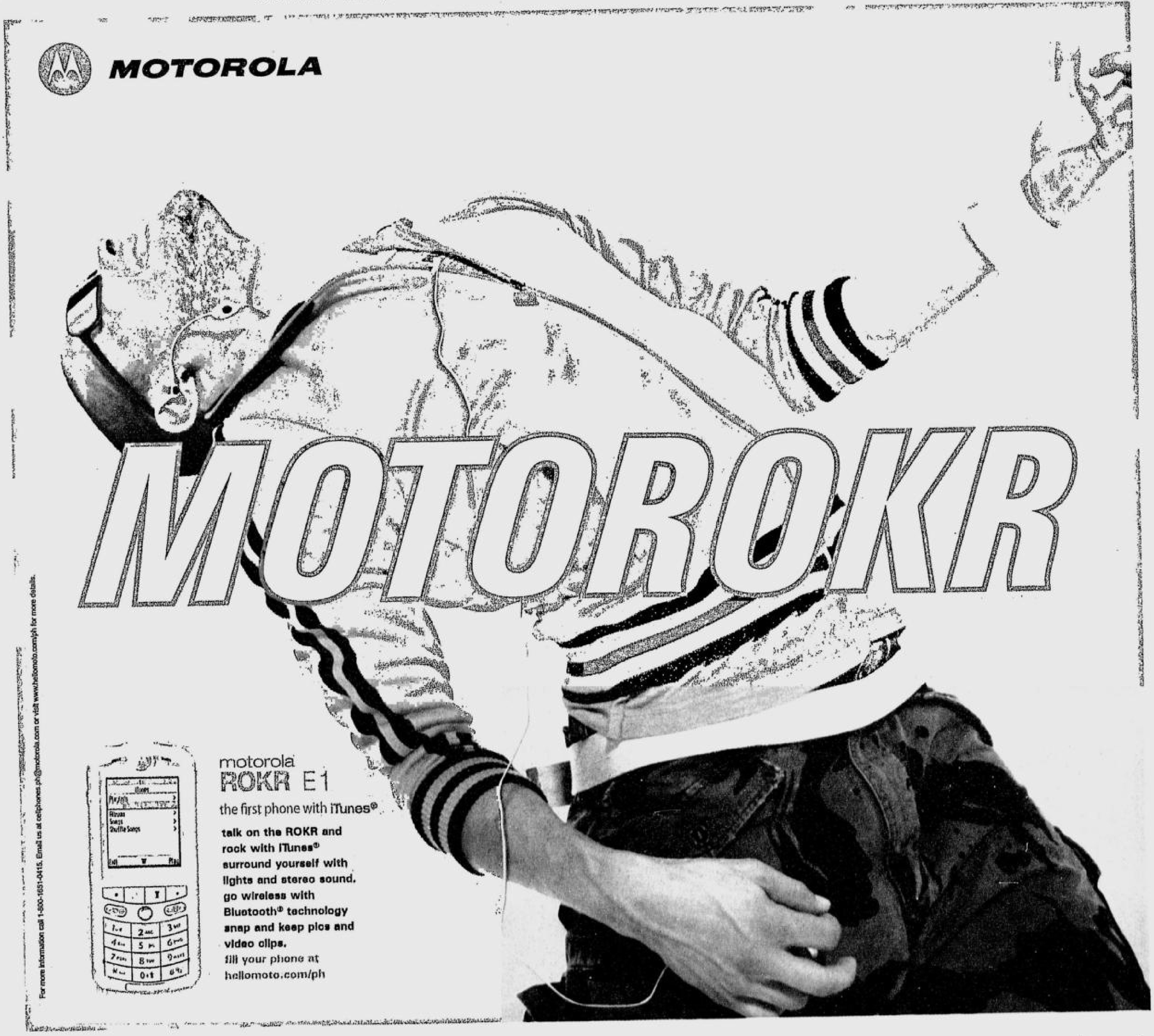
WHOOPS fashion is all about standing out in the crowd. Dare to be unique, take a step forward, take the challenge and dare to change.

Dare to change

WHOOPS OFFERS fashionably unique, edgy yet comfortably casual clothes that caters to both men and women from 13-40 years old. The new label's image models are Nicole Hernandez and Gabriel Valenciano.

Whoops' owners—Rosy Hong, Vanessa de Joya Villalon, Michael Hong, Andre Yu and John Hong—explain their vision for the new brand.

"Trendsetters from America, Europe and Asia have been in constant search of clothes that speak more of individual uniqueness, adventurous style and comfort. The new fashion trend-setters are now no longer afraid to be fashionably different. They are bolder in expressing their real selves through the clothes they wear. Whoops is all about daring to change."



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LIFESTYLE

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Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**

FASHION

hide and seek

DISGUISE
figure flaws
p. E2

DISCOVER
Jenni's fave
shopping haunts
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DELIGHT
in reworked vintage finds
p. D2

Photography
Christian Halili
Styling
Izza Gonzales-Agana
Model
Nicolette Bell, PMAP
Makeup Ces Guerrero
Hair Helen Egan
Clothes
New Yorker
and 8818 Fashion
Design Studio
Accesories Sen
Shoes Label

*This season,
may you have magic
in your hand.*

N°5
CHANEL
PARIS
PARFUM
EAU DU SOIR
eau de parfum
Miss Dior
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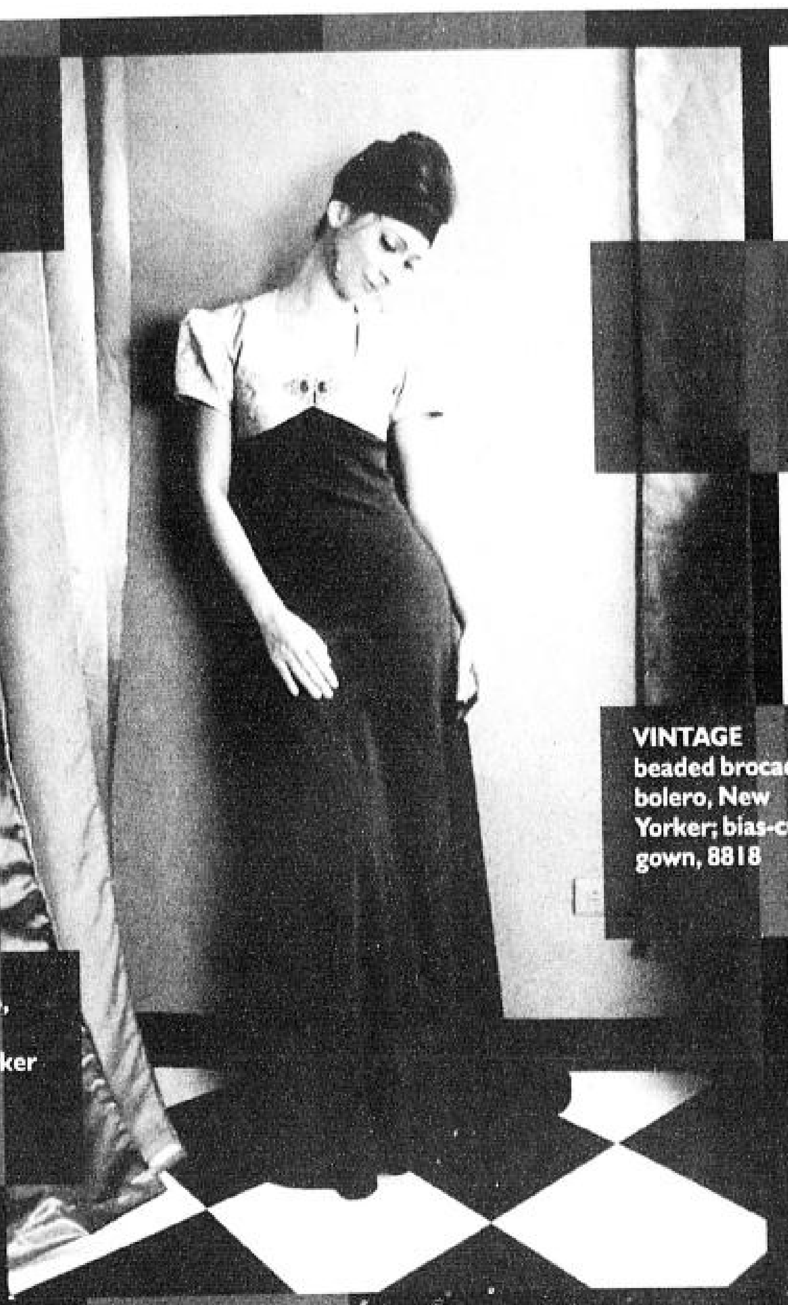
A
MOST
MAGICAL
TIME
OF THE
YEAR
Rustan's

OATMEAL top, 8818; beaded skirt, New Yorker



VINTAGE beaded brocade bolero, New Yorker; bias-cut gown, 8818

BEJEWE
brocade
vintage
trouser
Yorker;
clutch,

Old's cool

By Alex Y. Vergara

THERE'S A WORLD OF difference between vintage outfits worn by your favorite celebrities and fashionistas and the stuff you find from your friendly neighborhood *ukay-ukay* (thrift shop). Once in a while, however, there's a gem or two of genuine and classic finds waiting to be unearthed from those mounds upon mounds of less-than-sterling articles.

Vintage clothes, says Liz Lirag of New Yorker (shop), are simply the best pieces from any given year that came out from the collections of reputable designers and even some top RTW brands. She expands the scope to include old fabrics, shoes, jewelry and accessories such as brooches, beads, buttons and belts.

But, buyers, beware! For an outfit to be considered vintage, says Liz, the thing should be in mint condition. All isn't lost, though, as the designer can either painstakingly restore the piece or look for salvageable parts that can be incorporated in his new creations.

Cardinal rule

"A particular piece of vintage isn't for everybody," she says. "If a piece does find you (never the other way around), there are a number of ways to wear it to keep you from looking like you just stepped out of a museum. One cardinal rule is to avoid wearing vintage from head to toe. That's like wrapping yourself [up] in 100-percent designer stuff."

For this photo shoot, for instance, Liz and her team shortened a lame waist coat into a cropped jacket just below the model's chest. To give the piece added sparkle, they beaded it with vintage pearls and gold-colored stones along the collar and midriff.

It can also work the other way around. Liz, for instance, had an A-line denim mini-skirt shortened, ruched and smocked at the hem before her team spruced it up with vintage and bead-like brooches just a hairline or two above the smocking. The skirt's material and its silhouette may be new, but it still has a vintage feel via those stones.

In short supply of old beads and cabochons? Relax. Sometimes reworking an old piece can be as easy as tweaking its proportions. Don't you dare tinker with a rare artifact, though, unless you know your way around a sewing machine. Otherwise, leave it to the professional.

Take the skinny pair of vintage sailor pants in mauve. By simply cropping the pants' legs at the knees and bringing down the waistline a teeny-weeny bit away from the bellybutton, Liz was able to redefine the pair to appeal to the Christina Aguileras of today.

"If you tap into your creativity, there are virtually no limits when it comes to reworking or updating a vintage piece," says Liz. "Even elements from a seemingly hapless wedding gown you unearthed from your grandma's *baul* can be salvaged and later incorporated to your existing wardrobe."

VINTAG
feathers
New Yo
black sh
and den
trousers

CHIFFON top, 8818; vintage culottes, New Yorker

A would-be bride once came to New Yorker to see what they can do with her grandmother's old, discolored and fraying wedding gown. Since the piece was nearly falling apart, repairing it to fit the client was out of the question. Liz and her team simply salvaged the lace and incorporated it in the new gown's bodice.

Recently, they cut several sheets of vintage and embroidered *piña* barong belonging to a female client's father and pieced them together to form a *tapis*, which in turn was dyed lime and fused into the woman's chocolate-brown chiffon terno.

Established fashion house

Although not a fashion designer herself, Liz owes her extensive knowledge about fashion and embellishment to her late mother, Pilar Romack, who, during her time, was hailed by Manila society as the one and only "high priestess" of fashion. She established New Yorker, a fashion house-cum-high-end dress shop, in 1935 in Manila, and was later joined by Liz's older sister, Baby Gozum.

When Pilar and later Baby, New Yorker's resident designer then, passed away more than two decades ago, Liz, an English major, reluctantly assumed the top post. She eventually learned to love the business, and, in fact, was able to convince daughter Tina, a teacher, to join the enterprise.

"We're now reaping the fruits of my mother's foresight," says Liz proudly. "She was the original pack rat even before the words were invented. She was responsible for hoarding much of the vintage stuff we still have today—from the fabrics to the thousands upon thousands of hard-to-find beads and accessories."

Apart from New Yorker's in-house designer Dennis Resurreccion, Liz and Tina work with a team of seamstresses, embroiderers and beaders who toil away at the back of their for-

PHOTOGRAPHY CHRISTIAN HALILI (0
STYLING IZZA GONZALEZ. A
MODEL NICOLETTE BELL, P
MAKEUP CES GUERRERO
(CESGUERRERO142@HOTMAIL
HAIR HELEN EGAN
CLOTHES NEW YORKER (644775
AND 8818 FASHION DESIGN STUDIO (
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SHOT ON LOCATION AT 8818 FASHION

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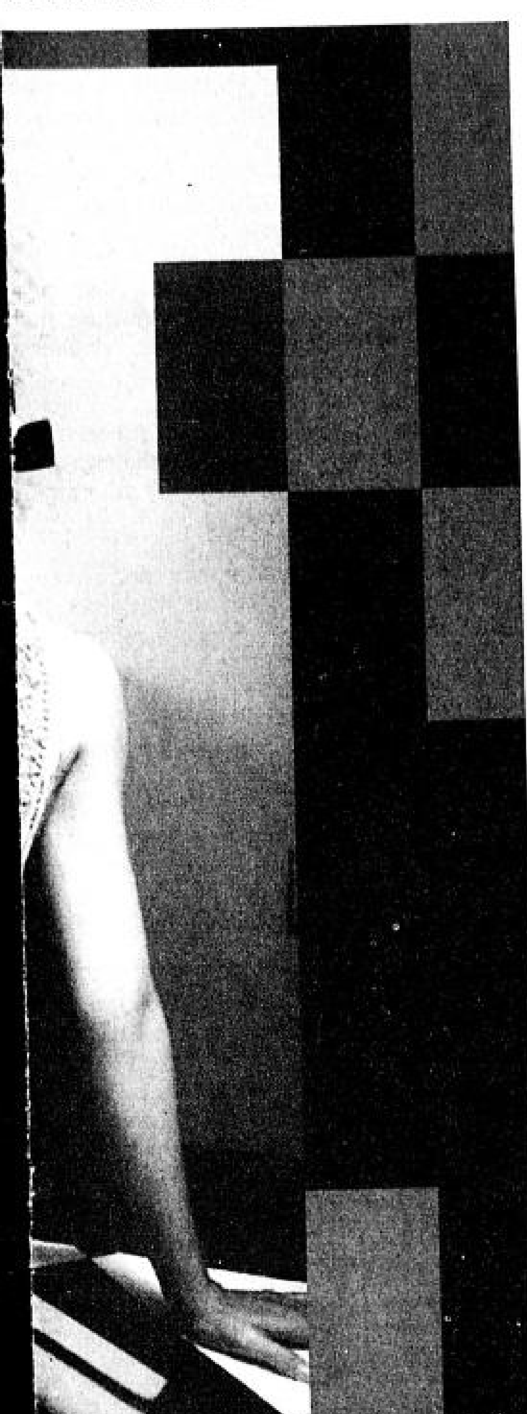

ELLED
vest and
brocade
, New
hot-pink
8818

New Yorker reworks old pieces to a fine magic

E
d jacket,
rker;
eer tunic
m
, 8818

mer residence on Pasay Road, in the heart of the Ayala Center.

Since New Yorker has been around for 60 years now, not a few of its clients' children and grandchildren also go to it to have their clothes made. Others rummage through their elders' wardrobes to have certain vintage pieces by New Yorker either altered or restored to fit current sensibilities.

"For the longest time, I didn't want to highlight the vintage aspect of our business," Liz says. "Apart from our desire to reposition our business to a younger market, we want the public to know that we're still very much in the business of making new and hopefully timeless clothes."

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph

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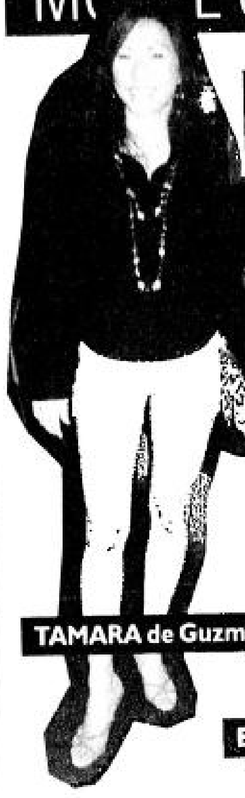
DESIGN STUDIO

MODEL CITIZENS MODEL CITIZENS MODEL CITIZENS MODEL CITIZENS

Short change

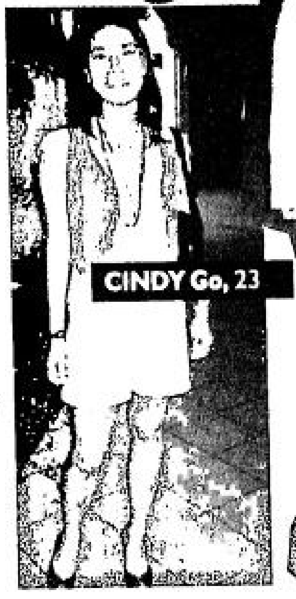
Text and photos by Katrina Cruz

SKIMMING OFF THE jean-clad public, these ladies in shorts get a leg up in style as they challenge the limits of everyday fashion. Shorts, which used to be homebound attire, have now evolved to become the top choice of clothing among the chic and trendy. Worn for day or night, with killer heels or your favorite flats, they will surely take you to great fashion lengths.



TAMARA de Guzman, 22

ELAINE Gotauco, 24



CINDY Go, 23

REGINE King, 24

KAREN Bitanga, 24

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Alpha Male

It never hurt a guy's way with the ladies to know a thing or two about one of women's beloved subjects—fashion

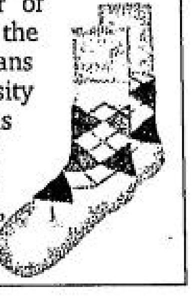
By Cheche V. Moral

IGNORANCE IS BLISS, SO THE ignorant say. But you're not that third figure from the left on the evolution chart, so you're smart enough to know it won't hurt your, uh, manhood to learn a word or two in Fashion Lingo 101.

We won't lie to you. This doesn't mean you'll transform into an alpha male overnight, though you'll be surprised at what upping your fashion quotient can do. To borrow a line from that TV commercial, "*Ang daming* benefits!"

We leave the rest for you to find out, but here's one.

It never hurt a guy's way with the ladies to know a thing or two about one of women's beloved subjects. (Unless you go and start mouthing these words A-to-Z to impress cuties, that is, which is sure to backfire.)



A **Argyle.** Big interlocking diamond pattern of two or more colors usually used in knit sweaters, vests and socks. This is favored by preppy types—you know, those neat, clean-cut types whose manner of dressing take cue from the well-off 1950s Americans who attended university preparatory schools (thus the name); they prefer brands like Polo Ralph Lauren, Brooks Brothers, Lilly Pulitzer, Lacoste.

B **Bomber jacket.** Zippered jacket with diagonal front pockets, thick ribbed cuffs and waistband, inspired by those worn by World War II bomber crew. Suggests a look that can be mucho macho.

C **Cummerbund.** The broad pleated sash worn around the waist over a dress shirt in place of a vest, as in the case of a tuxedo. Chances are you've seen this on 007.

D **Denim.** No, we don't think you're an idiot, and you're right, denim is your favorite *maong*. It's a durable twilled cotton fabric used in jeans and jackets. While it comes in many colors, dark-blue denim remains the most flattering.

E **Epaulet.** Pronounced *eh-paw-lay*, this is the ornamental loop sewn on the shoulder of a jacket or coat often seen in military uniforms. You'll see epaulets in military-inspired jackets so hot this season.

F **Flat-front trousers.** Slacks or trousers without pleats that lend a leaner silhouette. Pleats, by the way, are folds or gathers which create a darted effect under the waistband of your pants.

G **Gabardine.** A good suit and trouser fabric for its sturdy twill weave (see Twill below). It wears well, and may last you till, um, too much beer and *sisig* catches up with you and you burst your suit at the seams.

H **Houndstooth.** A jagged check pattern, usually in black and white, first popularized in the 1960s. It makes a comeback this season.

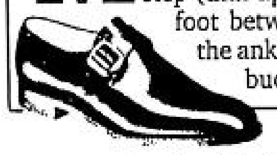
I **Inseam.** The length from the inner crotch to the bottom of the leg. It's the measurement of your pant length, not your mojo, so no need to weep—or brag.

J **Jersey.** A soft, elastic knit fabric of cotton, silk, wool, rayon or synthetics. It's crease-resistant. Jerseys, or sports jerseys, are made of this fabric.

K **Kidskin.** Buttery soft leather from the hide of young goats, used in footwear, gloves, bags.

L **Loafers.** Also known as penny loafers, these are slip-on leather shoes with broad, flat heels. They are casual footwear intended for, well, loafing.

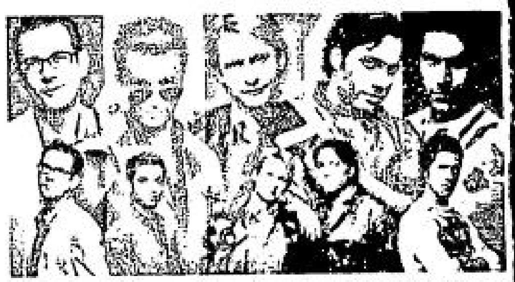
M **Monk.** A type of closed shoe with a wide strap across the instep (that upper section of the foot between the toes and the ankles), fastened with buckles at the side.



N **Nubuck.** This is a type of cowhide leather, buffed to resemble suede, usually used in footwear. Liquid splatters are quite obvious on nubuck, so careful on those trips to the john.

O **Oxford.** Leather shoes laced up over the instep either in plain leather or with perforated details. Some styles are casual, but most are dressier. Very Bond. James Bond.

P **Piqué.** Ribbed woven fabric of either cotton, silk, rayon. A breathable and durable material, it's often used in polo shirts. Those iconic Lacoste polo shirts are of cotton piqué.



Q **"Queer Eye for the Straight Guy."** Here's news, guys: There are channels besides ESPN. If you're fashion-clueless, this is the definitive style makeover show for you. Catch it on Mondays, 9 p.m., on the cable channel ETC.

R **Rivet.** Check your Levi's. Those tiny metal tacks used to secure the jean pockets? Those are called rivets, and were invented by the Levi's founder.

S **Seersucker.** Light but durable crinkled fabric used in trousers and suits. Seersucker patterns resemble candy stripes. The best part? This fabric doesn't require ironing.

T **Twill.** A woven fabric distinct for its diagonal rib, used mostly in menswear. It may have diagonal ribs on both sides, called fishbone weave or herringbone. The classic khakis you love are likely made of cotton twill.

U **Rustan's U.** A section in Rustan's devoted to casual wear for young ones, yuppies and the young at heart. It's got some of the more popular brands from the UK, US and Australia.

V **Vogue.** Men's Vogue, that is. The women's fashion bible has a new brother, and it's out to get the urban male in, well, vogue. Leafing through a men's fashion mag isn't something to be embarrassed about, but wearing mismatched socks is.

W **Wellington boots, or wellies.** Water-repellent boots made of rubber or leather. It has a wide top and extends to the knee or just below it.

X **X-factor.** An indescribable (but definitely positive) quality of a person. Say, you're not exactly a cutie but you're irresistible to the hotties. That must be the X-factor working. Then again, maybe you just smell nice and dress well.

Y **Y-3.** A special (so a bit bank-breaking) Adidas line by radical Japanese designer Yohji Yamamoto. That's ultimate designer athletic wear! Available locally at Homme et Femme in Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Mandaluyong.

Z **Zara.** Don't be fooled by the name. This globally recognized and trendy fashion brand from Spain brings with it its menswear and accessories line in the newly opened shop in Power Plant Mall, Makati.

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LIFESTYLE

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FASHION

The shopkeeper

For every mall brat on this island, there are gazillions of shops to go around, so don't fret about losing out

Jenni Epperson

DISCOVERING a shop that you simply adore brings out your evil twin. Your almond peepers morph into beady ones, you start rubbing your hands profusely, a naughty grin creeps up, then you hiss the words, "My preciousss...!"

Scary.

I've known some fashionista packs, editors and "selfish" *shoppingeras* (me included) who have fallen into this sinister trick of keeping a store a secret, stupidly thinking of it as an urban legend that would make a good ice breaker at a boring party.

Pfft! Yeah, right, whom are we kidding? In this urban jungle of back-stabbers and power-trippers, you can't expect to talk about someone behind his or her back and not be found out (I know who you all are—smile). Or unearth gems of boutiques and not share it with your friends.

So, in light of good shopping karma, I'm divulging some of my favorite shops and emporiums (actually more of my sanctuary) where I spend day-long retail romps to satisfy my fashion cravings without breaking my Louis Vuitton wallet.

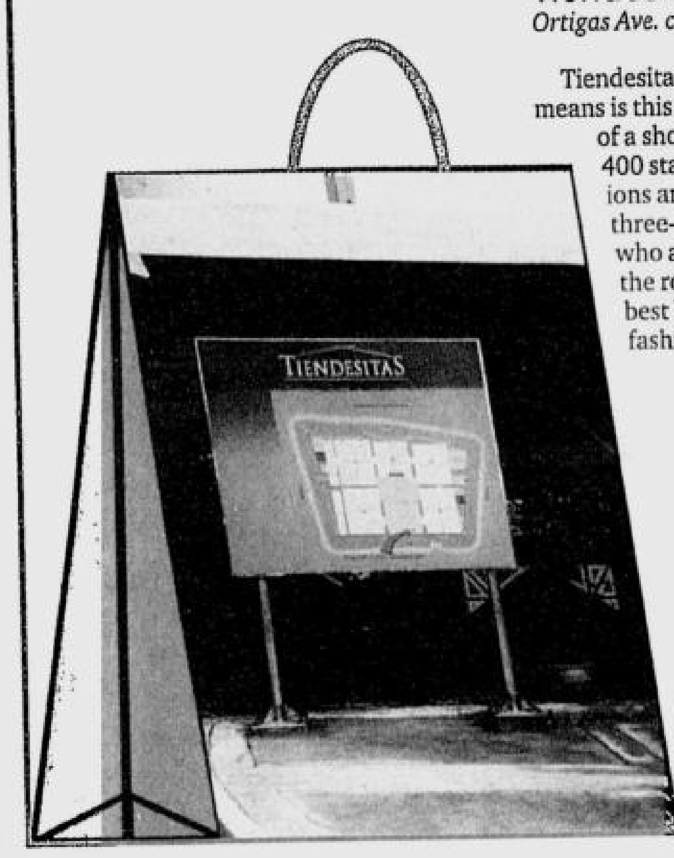
I believe if we share and rid ourselves of our greedy demeanor, we will all prosper, making this industry a better place to shop in. All it takes is one Judas to spill the beans at a time. Kidding!

Email the author at jfashion@inquirer.com.ph

THE SHOPKEEPER/ E2

Tiendesitas

Ortigas Ave. corner E. Rodriguez Ave. (C-5)



Tiendesitas means "small stores," but by no means is this place *pequeño*. It's a mammoth of a shopping complex, boasting over 400 stalls housed in *cogon*-roofed pavilions and scattered in a sprawling three-hectare land. Locals and tourists who are up to the challenge of doing the rounds will definitely score their best buys here (I know I have)—be it fashion, food or furniture.

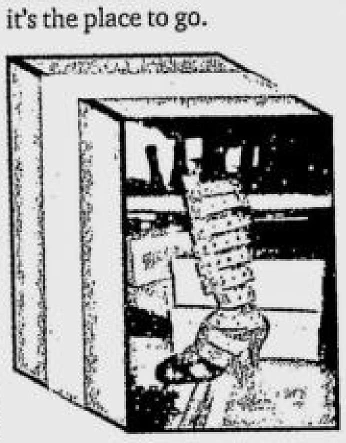
Shop tips:

- Bring lots cash. Sad to say, there are no ATMs around.
- First-timers better check out the information booth to familiarize themselves with the place. Then again, sometimes getting lost is more fun than having a set destination.
- Most stores open at 12 noon and close at 12 midnight, so make sure to spend a couple of hours to appreciate the merchandise.

Marikina Shoe Expo

Gen. Romulo St., Quezon City

Marikina Shoe Expo is anywhere but in Marikina. It's actually located in Cubao. This shoe kingdom has been there since the late '60s and has become an institution devoted to Filipino-made shoes. If you want boots, shoes or sandals made to order, it's the place to go.



Shop tips:

- Don't waste your time going on a Monday, as many of the funky shops are closed. Tuesdays and Thursdays are good days.
- Make the most of your Cubao trip by making a list and showing pegs of what styles you want made. Also, bring your shoes that need repair. It's so inexpensive to have it done here, you can't believe it! How does P50 sound to you? Also, P250 to have your shoes dyed in Solimann Shoes is a steal.
- Wear light clothing, bring tons of water and your *lola*'s *abaniko*. It's hot and humid at this expo.

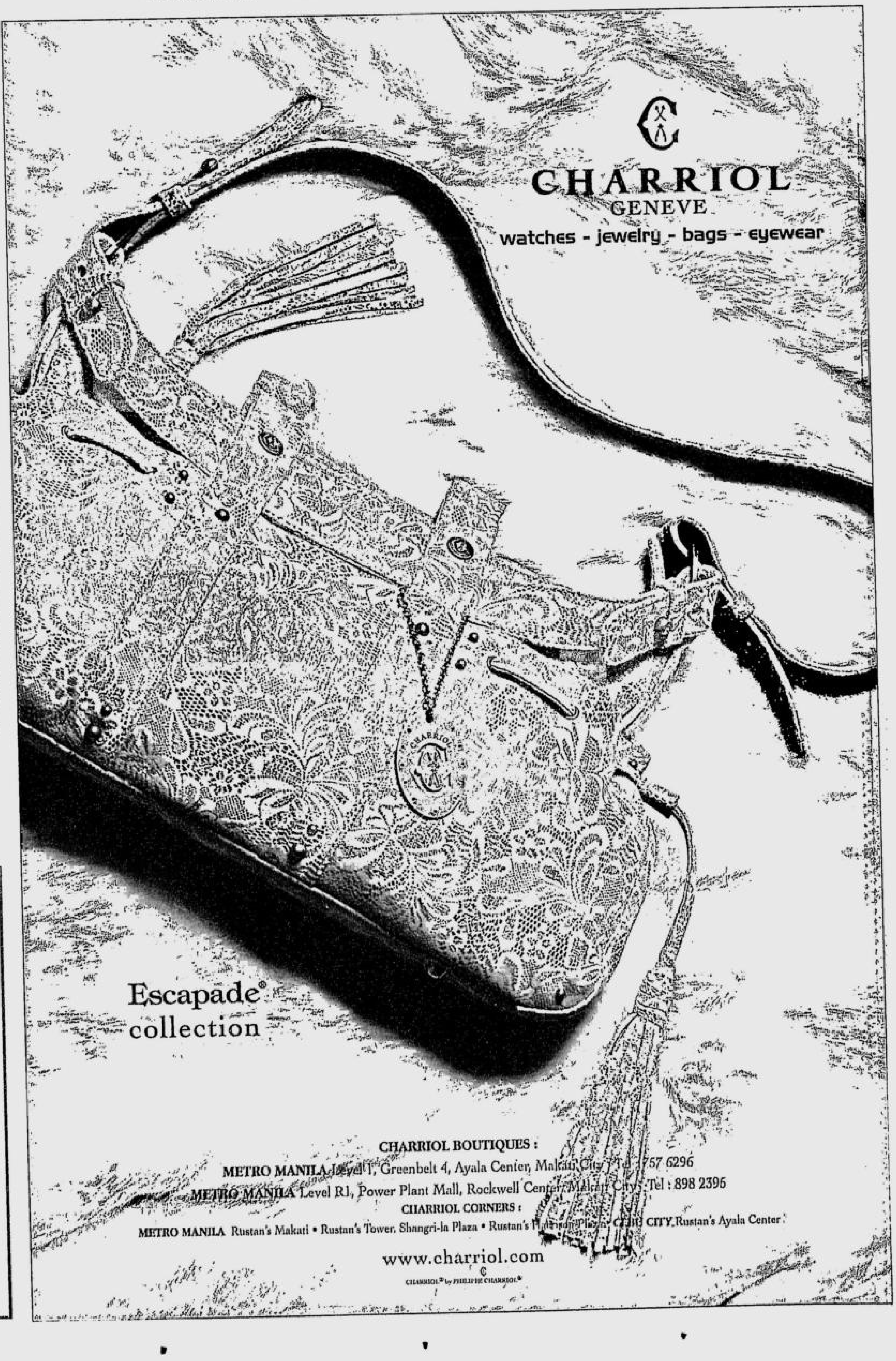
Marni's Room

Malate, Manila. Only by appointment. Call 0917-3888918.

Nope, the owner's name is not Marni. Actually the room is in designer Louis Claparol's pad, to be exact. If you're into reworked vintage regalia and vintage designer clothes and bags like Prada and Chloe, you'll love Louis for saving these treasures.

Shop tips:

- Always set an appointment. Just because you've been there a few times, don't be rude by just showing up unannounced; remember it's still Louis' home sweet home.
- Don't think twice about getting what you like, vintage beauties like these are hard to find.
- Hoard 'em.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Master of disguise

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APPLES' PICKINGS

Apples Aberin-Sadhwani

WOMEN WHO ARE ALWAYS impeccably dressed do not necessarily have the most perfect figures or enviable wardrobes. More often than not, these fashion plates look great because they know how to dress according to their body types, thus creating the right proportions.

The good news is that you can do the same by observing some simple wardrobe tips and tricks. But before anything else, try to look at yourself from an objective point of view to determine what you loathe (big hips or arms, perhaps?) and love (a small waist or toned, endlessly long legs) about your body. This way, you can begin to pinpoint what pieces you need to hide your flaws and show off your assets.

Since dressing well is tantamount to creating the right balance and proportion, remember that your choice of clothing and accessories should always be to scale. For instance, those who are slight of frame should stick to smaller bags, daintier accessories and more streamlined pieces. Meanwhile, taller, bigger women can tote bigger bags and chunkier accessories.

Also, the right posture can make you look taller, longer and slimmer so do stand tall at all times! Plus, never underestimate the importance of wearing the right underwear (seamless undies that do not create lines and cuts plus the right bra to provide support), an integral part of good grooming that's often taken for granted.

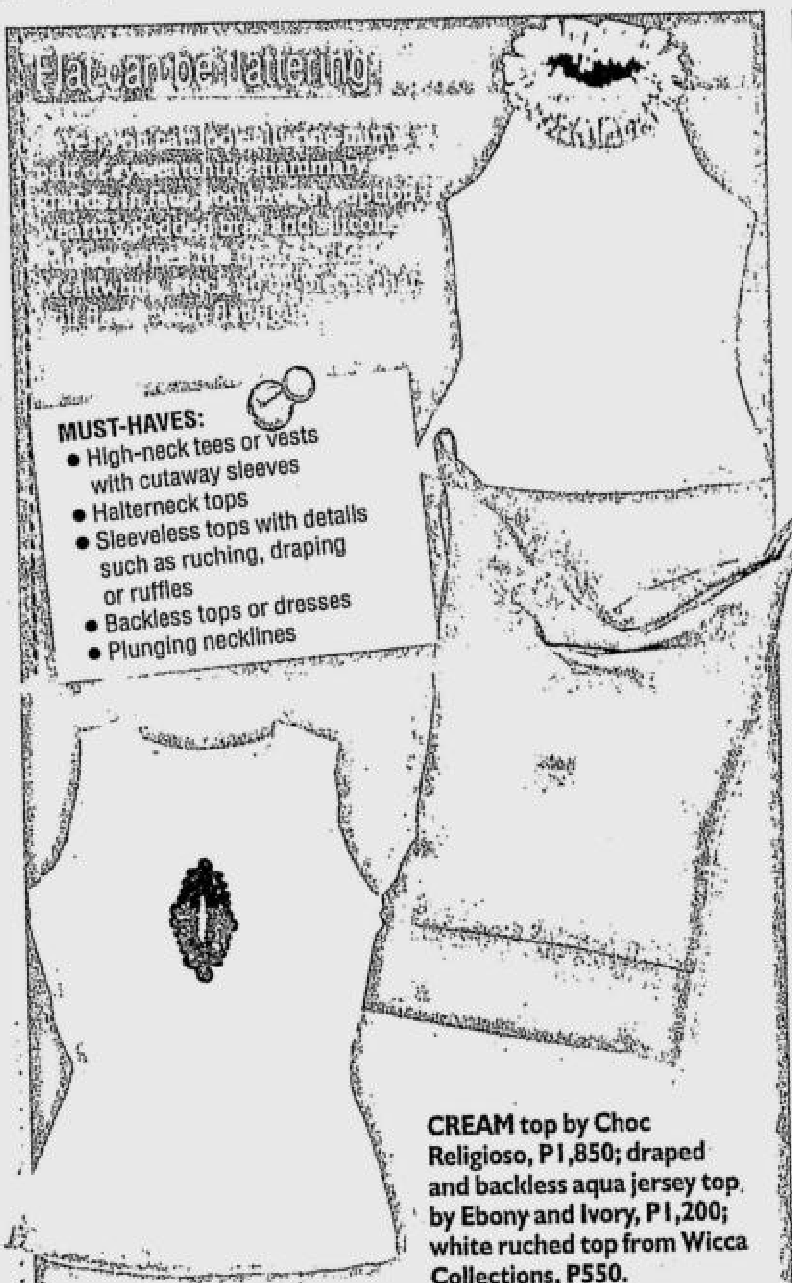
Having said all that, let's get more specific. To help you out, here are some pieces, figure bashers so to speak, that can help disguise those not-so-ideal body parts. Remember, part of the fun is in creating the illusion of perfection.

All items are available at Sy-Kat Couture and Alterations. Call 8904280.

E-mail the author at afashion@inquirer.com.ph

Flat can be flattering

[illegible] pair of eye-catching mammary [illegible] padded bra and silicon [illegible]



MUST-HAVES:
- High-neck tees or vests with cutaway sleeves
- Halterneck tops
- Sleeveless tops with details such as ruching, draping or ruffles
- Backless tops or dresses
- Plunging necklines

CREAM top by Choc Religioso, P1,850; draped and backless aqua jersey top by Ebony and Ivory, P1,200; white ruched top from Wicca Collections, P550.

MUST-NOTS:
- Low-scoop necklines (shows off too much empty space)
- Empire lines
- Corsets (simply because there's nothing to bolster!)
- Band-aid like tube tops

Bountiful bosom

Lucky you! You've got what it takes to turn every Tom, Dick and Harry's head. And although I'm all for showing off your assets, you must take care not to look top-heavy or worse, just a wee bit tarty (or a lot, depending on your getup!).

It can be difficult for you to find clothes that fall well and fit perfectly, which is probably why most fashion models are hanger thin and flat as pancakes. So, arm yourself with the right bra (control is key!) and pieces that will flatter your buxom bosom.

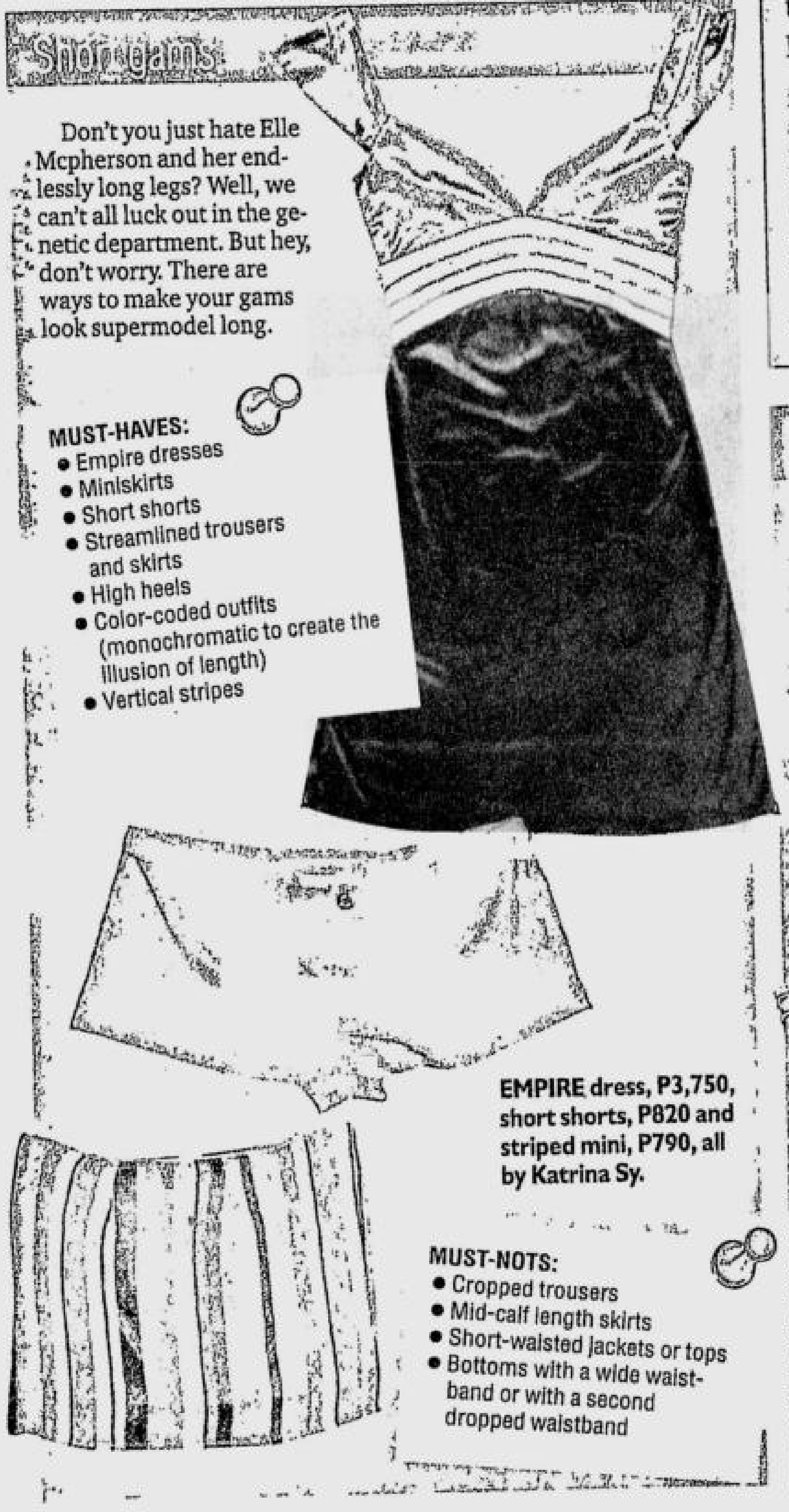
MUST-HAVES:
- Wide-open necklines
- Wrap tops and dresses
- Tops that are tight around the waist and loose around the breasts

SCOOP-NECK T by Wicca Collection, P450; wrap dress by Ebony & Ivory, P3,820 with spaghetti-strap top by Wicca Collections, P480; strapless dress with vertical pattern by Ebony & Ivory, P4,325

MUST-NOTS:
- High-neck tees
- Unfitted shell tops
- Boxy, short-waisted jackets
- Chunky knits

Short gams

Don't you just hate Elle Mcpherson and her endlessly long legs? Well, we can't all luck out in the genetic department. But hey, don't worry. There are ways to make your gams look supermodel long.



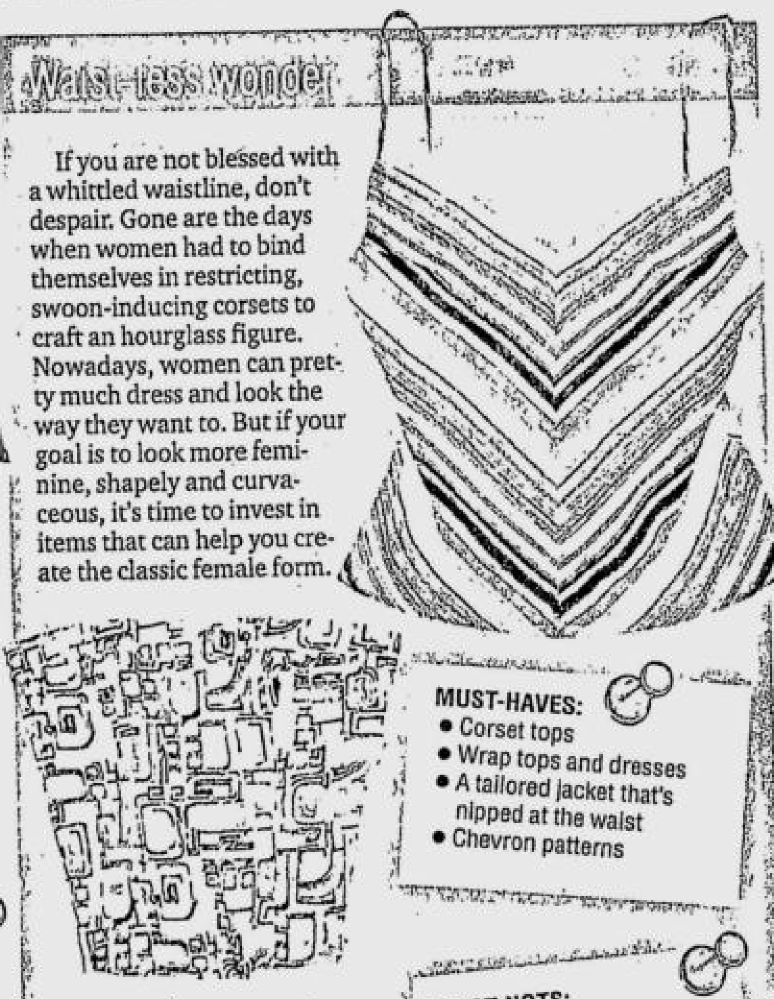
MUST-HAVES:
- Empire dresses
- Miniskirts
- Short shorts
- Streamlined trousers and skirts
- High heels
- Color-coded outfits (monochromatic to create the illusion of length)
- Vertical stripes

EMPIRE dress, P3,750, short shorts, P820 and striped mini, P790, all by Katrina Sy.

MUST-NOTS:
- Cropped trousers
- Mid-calf length skirts
- Short-waisted jackets or tops
- Bottoms with a wide waistband or with a second dropped waistband

Waist-less wonder

If you are not blessed with a whittled waistline, don't despair. Gone are the days when women had to bind themselves in restricting, swoon-inducing corsets to craft an hourglass figure. Nowadays, women can pretty much dress and look the way they want to. But if your goal is to look more feminine, shapely and curvaceous, it's time to invest in items that can help you create the classic female form.

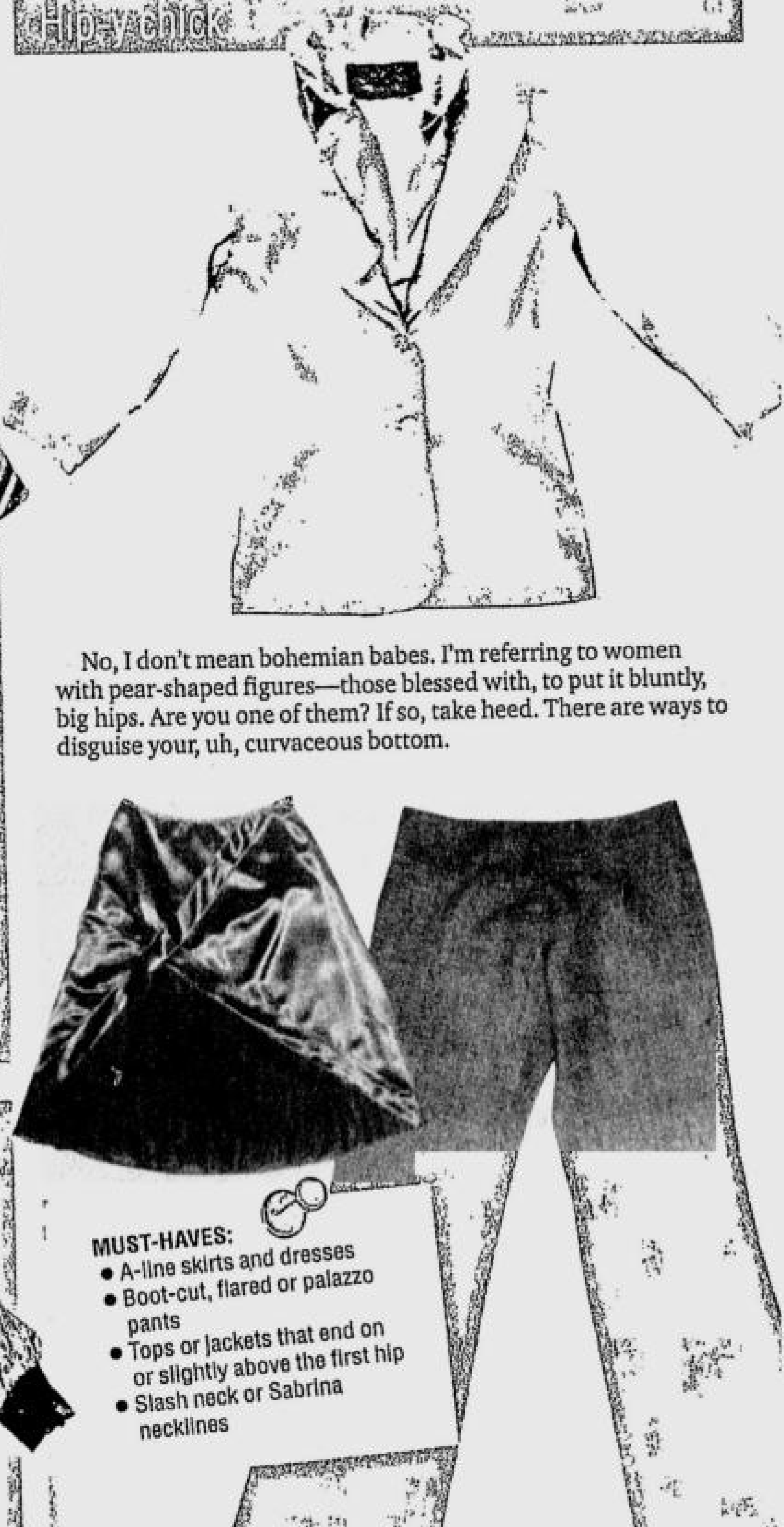


MUST-HAVES:
- Corset tops
- Wrap tops and dresses
- A tailored jacket that's nipped at the waist
- Chevron patterns

CORSET top by Paula Calantuan, P1,200; top with chevron pattern by Ebony & Ivory, P950

MUST-NOTS:
- Shift dresses
- Double-breasted jackets
- Baggy tops

Hip-y chick



No, I don't mean bohemian babes. I'm referring to women with pear-shaped figures—those blessed with, to put it bluntly, big hips. Are you one of them? If so, take heed. There are ways to disguise your, uh, curvaceous bottom.

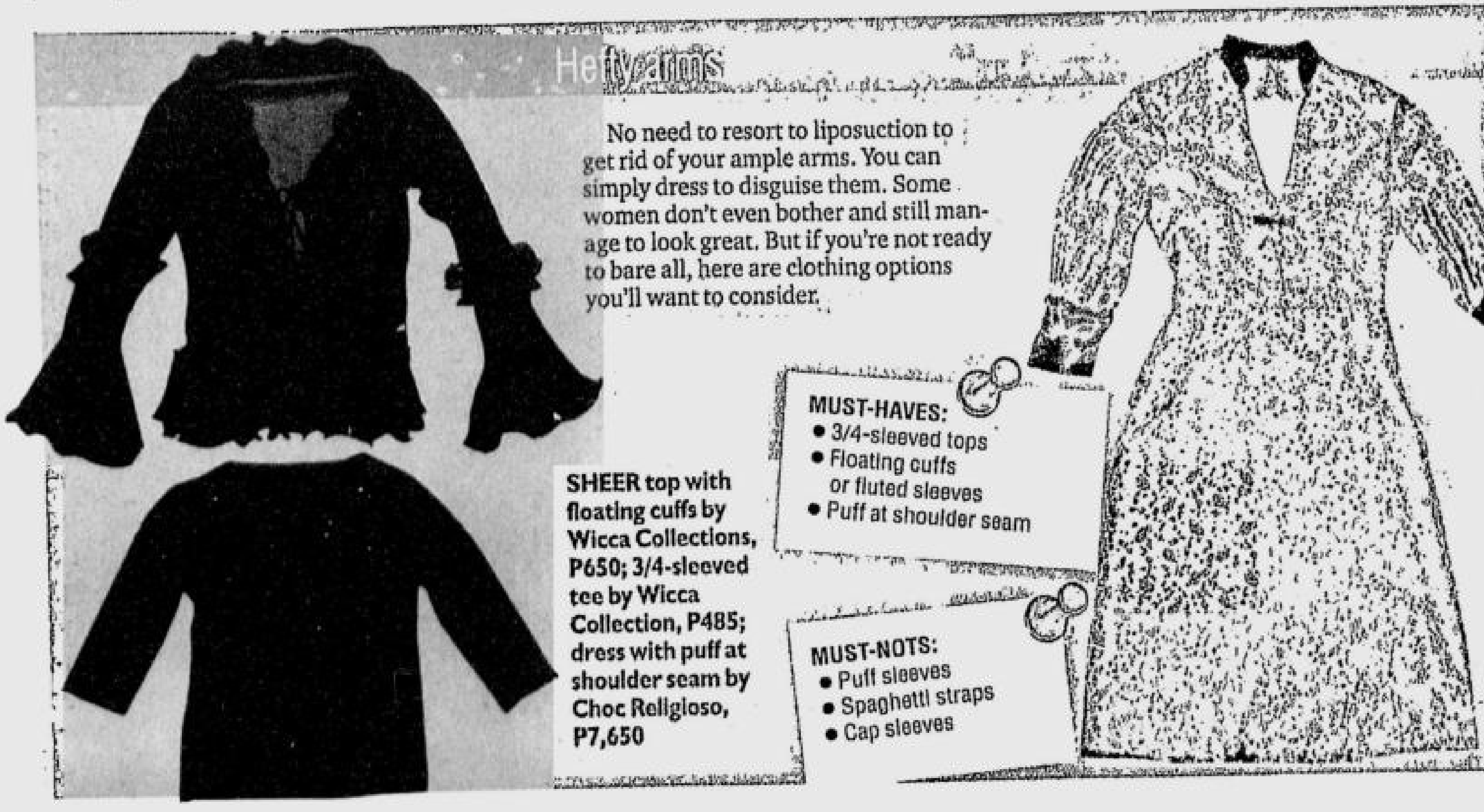
MUST-HAVES:
- A-line skirts and dresses
- Boot-cut, flared or palazzo pants
- Tops or jackets that end on or slightly above the first hip
- Slash neck or Sabrina necklines

SATIN a-line skirt with pleated accents by Choc Religioso, P2,450; boot-cut, flat-front tailored pants by Ebony & Ivory, P2,800; hip-length jacket by Choc Religioso, P4,950

MUST-NOTS:
- Bias-cut skirts and dresses
- Tapered, straight-legged or drainpipe pants
- Wrap dresses

Hefty arms

No need to resort to liposuction to get rid of your ample arms. You can simply dress to disguise them. Some women don't even bother and still manage to look great. But if you're not ready to bare all, here are clothing options you'll want to consider.



MUST-HAVES:
- 3/4-sleeved tops
- Floating cuffs or fluted sleeves
- Puff at shoulder seam

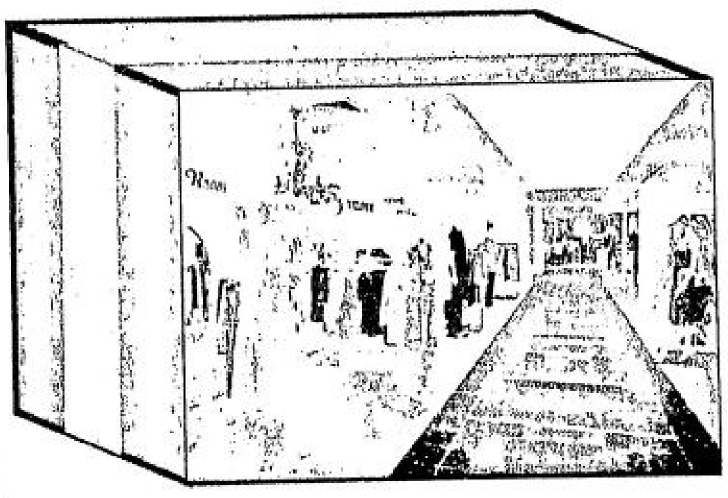
SHEER top with floating cuffs by Wicca Collections, P650; 3/4-sleeved tee by Wicca Collection, P485; dress with puff at shoulder seam by Choc Religioso, P7,650

MUST-NOTS:
- Puff sleeves
- Spaghetti straps
- Cap sleeves

The shopkeeper

From page E1

Satisfy your fashion cravings without breaking the bank!



The Ramp

2/L, Crossings Department Store, Shangri-La Plaza Mall

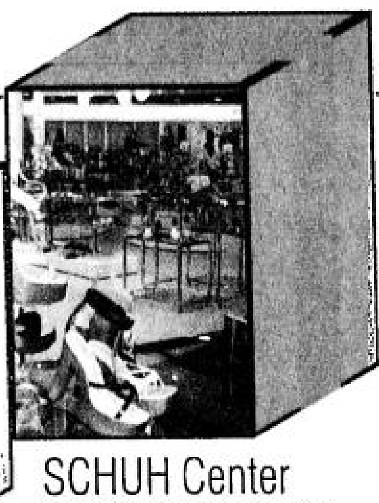
A row of cool and quirky pieces of young designers inside a mall. Finally, a place where you can buy designer pieces without having to spend hours looking for the designers' ateliers.

Grab a few pieces at United Pop by Richie Ortega, Urban & Co., CMG Glam, Wild Flower, Seven Dials, Dressing Room and Free People.

It's the best place for those who only have during lunch break to shop, and those who must give their wallets and credit cards the shopping exercise they need.

Shop tips:

- Shop when the mall opens (10 a.m.) to get a first crack at the collection.
- Buy from different designers. Being dressed in one designer brand from head to toe looks too contrived.
- Window shop before buying. The assortment of styles may overwhelm you.



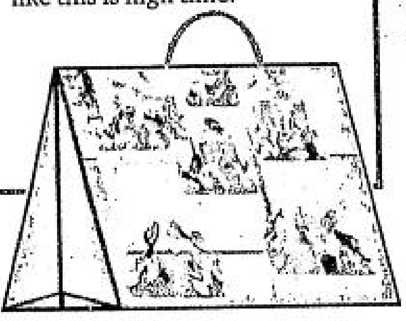
SCHUH Center

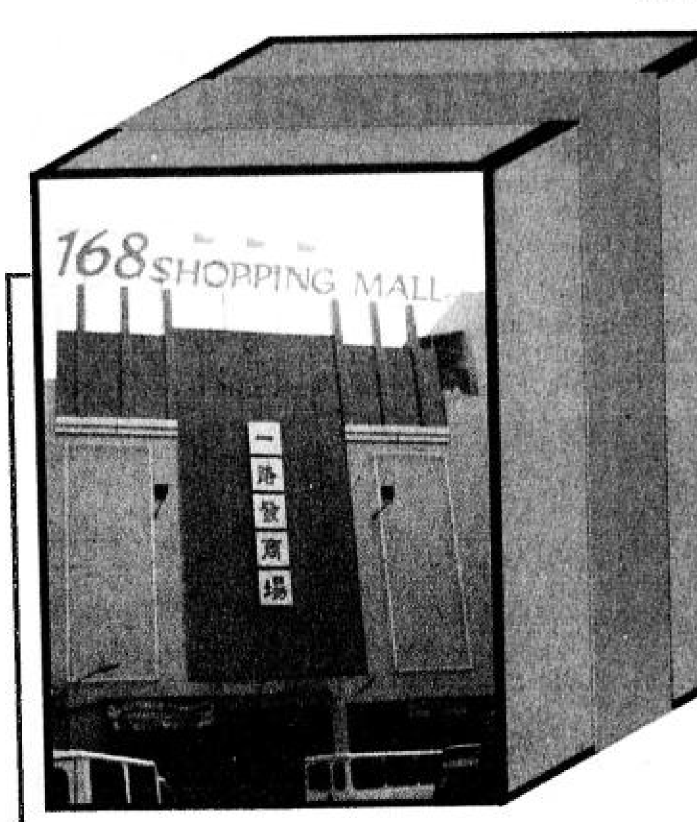
Greenhills Shopping Center

Designed to be the "ultimate shoe shopping place in the metropolis," this place will give you a shoe overload. Unlike Marikina Shoe Expo, this center carries more Filipino designer brands such as Rusty Lopez, Suki and Bristol for men. For the proudly Pinoy and proudly "kuripot," a store like this is high time.

Shop tips:

- Don't panic! It's so easy to get overwhelmed by the sight of so many shoes and so little time, but control yourself.
- Be sure to try on every pair.
- Some shoes are dirt-cheap (P250), but make sure the quality will not leave your fancy feet kicking in the dirt.





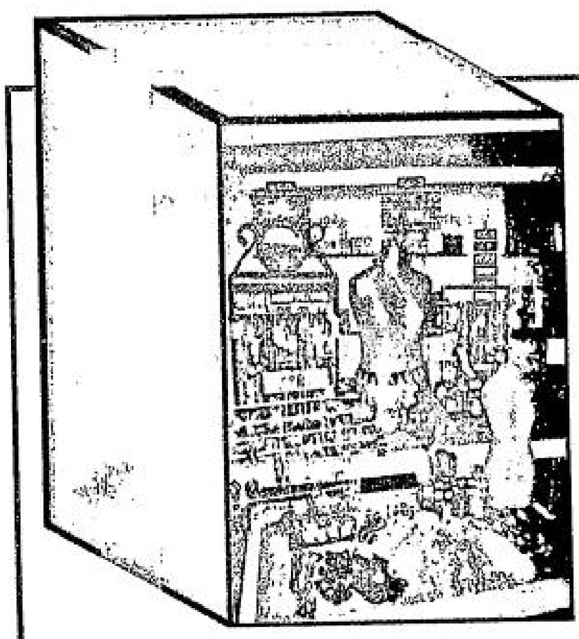
168 Shopping Mall

Sta. Elena St., Binondo, Manila

I dub thee the bargain shopper's mall. Discount divas, Divisoria die-hards and fashionistas will truly get lightheaded when inside this mall. Picture this: Tabora-style stalls but air-conditioned! Ultra fab accessories and other fashion finds sold cheap, plus you can even make *tawad*! Just writing about it makes me want to ditch this article and head to Chinatown.

Shop tips:

- Buy in bulk. Store owners will give you wholesale prices (20- to 30-precent off the retail price) if you buy six or more pieces, so bring your friends to get that buying power.
- Bring your chauffeur or car-pool. Parking is a pain here.
- Cash is the name of the game. The lower the denominations, the better.



Color Theory

2/F 3 Colby Bldg., Bayani Rd., Fort Bonifacio, Taguig

Sometimes it takes time to mine the perfect stone. Same with Color Theory—you will have get into your car, drive and stop to ask strangers for directions on how to get to the shop. But once found, consider yourself a winner. This boutique houses brands with various treasures to offer—Get Happy and PoBi accessories, Domesticity and Belliya home décor, Indie Art personal care products.

Shop tips:

- Email Happy David at gethappynow@gmail.com or colortheorystore@gmail.com for a map on how to get there.
- Bohemian babes, this is your new shopping haven!
- If you see something you like, buy it asap! The store sells only limited items of the same kind.

EXTRA BENEFITS FROM EXTRACURRICULARS

The availability of 24-hour cable television, computer games and the Internet might make the idea of extracurricular activities a difficult proposition. But this is precisely WHY you need to make the extra effort to get your kids off the couch and into an activity that takes them out of the house and forces them to use their muscles – and their brains.

Helping your child embrace a new activity may seem daunting at first. There are many options open to children today beyond sports and piano lessons. Parents should keep in mind one of the main objectives of extracurricular activities, which is to widen a child's world and allow him or her to go into something in-depth and gain self-confidence.

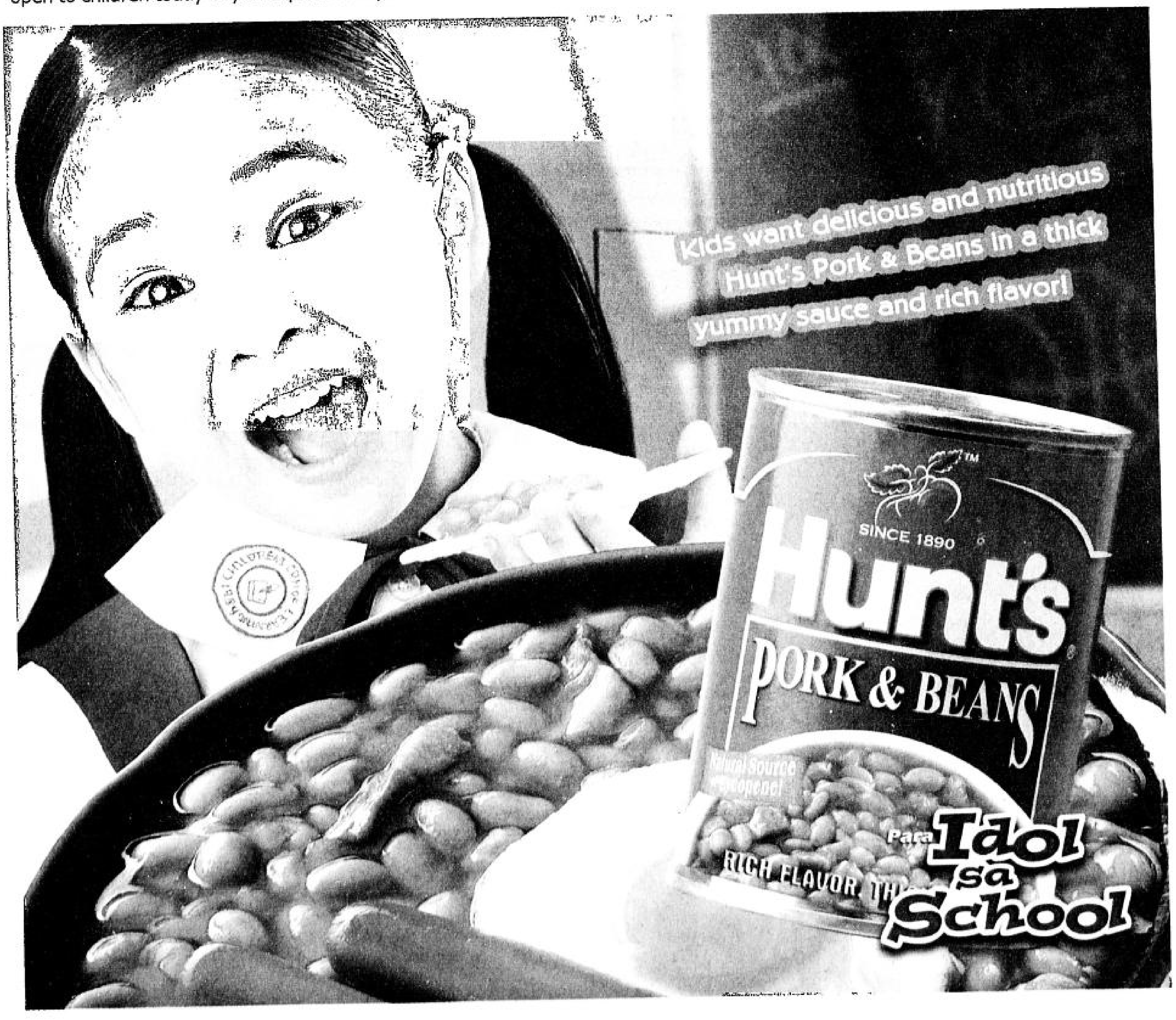
Choosing the proper activity depends on many factors – your child's age, inclinations, and what you as a parent feel are skills your child should have. Make sure, however that you are able to include a few activities you know your child will like and enjoy, be it ballet, making masks or studying dinosaurs.

It's also important not to get your child involved in activities for the wrong reasons – like, just because everyone in school or in the family are doing it.

Once they have made a commitment, they should stick with the activity for at least six weeks. This helps teach a child perseverance and determination. Most experts do not encourage allowing children to drop in and out of activities – this sort of behavior can carry on into your child's adult life, if permitted. If a child really wants to quit the activity, look for physical signs of stress like headaches or vomiting.

Critical to managing your child's extracurricular activities is balancing them against school and other activities. To make sure there is no conflict or stress, parents should sit down with their children to map out a schedule. Ideally, children shouldn't be involved in extracurricular activities more than six to nine hours a week. Again, it's important to consider what your child is capable of; if he or she is in several activities and manages to keep up with school work without getting tired, then its fine.

Lastly, it's important to make sure your child eats correctly to have the energy and alertness needed to perform well and enjoy the extracurricular activities more. HUNT'S PORK AND BEANS are an excellent source of the essential nutrients needed for growing minds and bodies - magnesium, iron, protein, lycopene, flavonoids and carbohydrates. It's a delicious companion to your child's favorite foods, like hotdogs, eggs or ham, and helps provide added nourishment for faster brains and stronger muscles. Just what your child needs to get extra benefits from extracurriculars!


Kids want delicious and nutritious
Hunt's Pork & Beans in a thick
yummy sauce and rich flavor!
SINCE 1890
Hunt's
PORK & BEANS
Natural Source of Lycopene!
RICH FLAVOR TH
Para Idol sa School

“hide and seek is . . .”

Compiled by Apples Aberin-Sadhwani

... What you must sometimes do to keep the relationship alive. A sense of mystery or inaccessibility is sometimes good… But don't overdo it.

—Malu Francisco, Store Specialists, Inc., marketing communications manager

Hiding from someone you owe money to and seeking someone who owes you.

—Tong Rom[illegible], emphasis salon [illegible] [illegible] ng buhok

... The past you prefer to forget, the present you would like to hide from and the future you will always dream of.

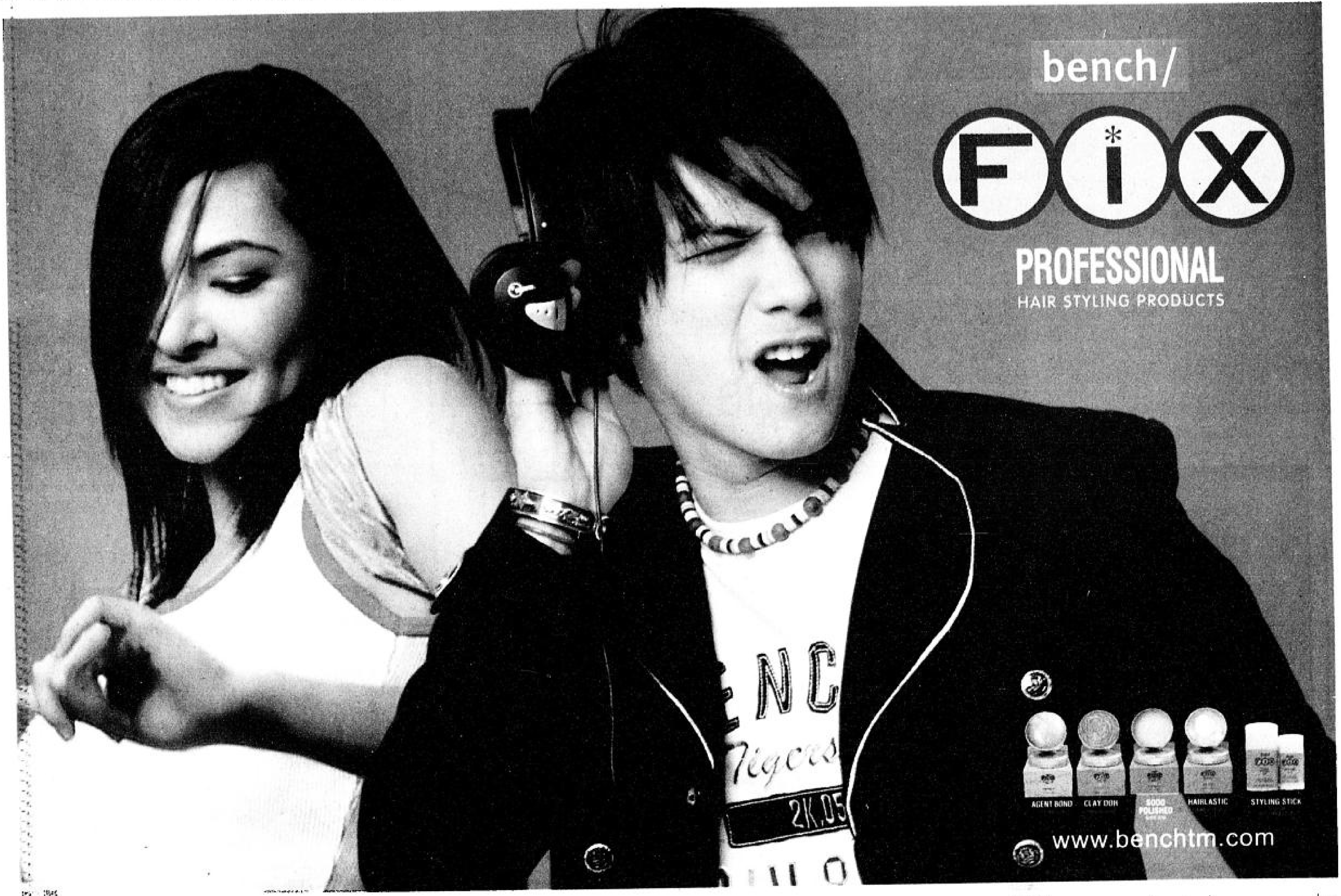
—Jackie C. Aquino, fashion show director

...Going through someone else's trash and finding your ultimate treasure.

—Margarita A. Fores, mother/restaurateur/food enthusiast

Downplaying your flaws by accentuating your best features.

—Xeng Zulueta, Shu Uemura chief makeup artist



A COMET Breakthrough In Beauty

Being beautiful and attractive does not stop at having great skin in your face. You know you have to look just as flawless from the neck down. That includes being hair-free and having smooth skin in certain areas of the body that you flaunt. It's not surprising that women stop at nothing just to keep off those nasty body hairs, stubbles and chicken skin from coming back. After all, being completely hair-free and looking velvety smooth from head to toe scores compliments and turns heads.

From the same company which brought the Laser Hair Removal to Manila in December 1999, Facial Care Centre (FCC) now introduces another breakthrough in permanent hair removal, the Comet Hair Removal. It is the most effective machine for treating all colors of skin and hair. From blondes to dark-skinned, this method of hair removal absolutely works with least discomfort. FCC breaks new ground once again as it pioneers in the Philippines the internationally recognized and much talked about ELOS technology in hair removal.

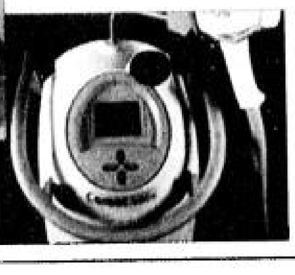
The Comet system employs the powerful combination of electro-optical synergy (ELOS) and bi-polar radio frequency (RF). The energies coming from laser and radio frequency produce epidermal and dermal heat at accurate controlled depth. It can provide individual adjustment of radio frequency and laser energies to achieve maximum efficiency and safety for each patient.

Dr. Isabelita Joya, FCC in-house dermatologist states, "The technology of Comet Hair Removal yields fantastic results on very light blonde hair and dark skin types without having to increase the optical energy level. Since radio frequency does not hit melanin or the pigments in the skin that are responsible for our skin color, clients with any skin type – whether very fair or very dark – will find this treatment effective. Another important feature of this recently launched machine is that it has active dermal monitoring which stands for the capacity of the device to measure the amount of electrical power absorbed by the skin. This means that the device automatically measures and adjusts the amount of heat generated in the skin to effectively treat the areas with facial or body hair."

One of the many advantages of Comet is that there is no downtime. Dr. Joya further explains, "Except for minimal temporary redness in treated areas that disappears in minutes after a session, there is no side effect that will hinder you from immediately resuming your daily activities right after the treatment." As for the number of treatments required, this may depend on the area to be treated but generally speaking, you're on your way to being a hair-free and trouble-free beauty after six or more sessions.

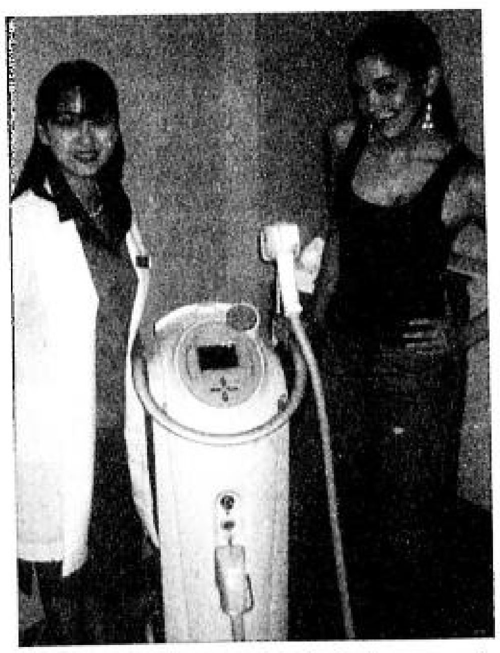
> “I heard this from a photographer during the shoot. He said my armpits were nice. There's no need to PhotoShop it!”

Comet Hair Removal Treatment ▲



Comet Machine ▶

International VJ, TV show host and professional model Amanda Griffin enthuses about having discovered Comet. Fair and beautiful, Amanda does her best to look perfect on and off cam. Being hair-free and having smooth skin is essential for her because being a celebrity requires that she looks impeccable all the time. Amanda relates, "Beautiful skin is important for me because of my job. I try to take care of my skin as much as possible." Admittedly, she chose to go only to a professional skincare center that she could completely trust for her particular needs. Asked why she decided to go to Facial Care Centre, she says "I was tired of shaving. My armpits became irritated while waxing was painful. It left my armpits stubbly. So I wanted to get rid of the unsightly hair permanently." But looking at her now after having just a few sessions of Comet Hair Removal treatment, it's hard to imagine this fair, peaches-and-cream-skinned lady once had problems with unwanted body hair and irritated skin from the discomforts of shaving and waxing.



▲ Amanda Grifin poses with FCC's Dr. Joya to promote her new favorite Comet Hair Removal treatment.

For Amanda, it took only the first treatment to see a great outcome. "I saw results right after the first treatment. I practically don't have hair left." What's even better, she did not experience any adverse reaction at all which made her like the Comet Hair Removal treatments even more. Now finished with her third session, Amanda smiles with satisfaction when talking about the compliments she gets. "I heard this from a photographer during the shoot. He mentioned it. He said my armpits were nice. There's no need to PhotoShop it!" And the great difference after her Comet treatments, "My skin is soft in the armpits. After my third treatment, I only have one or two hairs that grow back but no stubble anymore. I also recommend it to everyone I know that they should definitely go and get it. It made such a difference for me, not having to shave ever!"

Comet is indeed a revolutionary breakthrough in beauty. Not only does it liberate you from unwanted hair, it also promises you a lifetime of fun and total confidence!

Call the Facial Care Centre at 892-SKIN (7546) to inquire more about Comet Hair Removal.

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Bottled Potions

'Audrey Hepburn'

'Greta Garbo'

BEAUTY

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BREAKOUT to breakthrough p. F2

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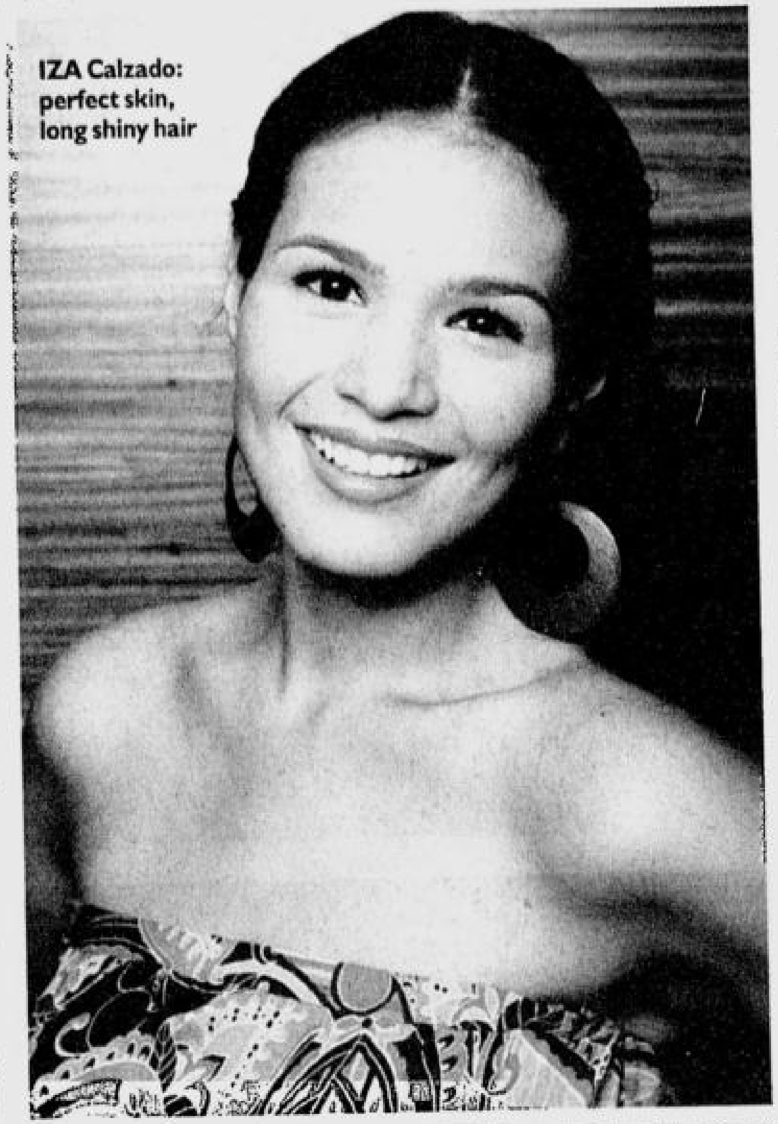


IZA Calzado: perfect skin, long shiny hair

Seeking shine

By Frances Amper
Contributor

IZA CALZADO IS KNOWN FOR her long shiny hair, gleaming skin and sparkling personality, making her truly one of the brightest celebrities these days.

Iza makes sure to use protein-packed shampoo and conditioner to keep her hair healthy. When it comes to skincare, Iza gets regular facials to keep her skin camera-ready all the time. Mike Larriosa, Iza's personal makeup artist, says that because Iza's skin is so perfect, he needs only the simplest tools to make Iza shine.

First, he applies The Body Shop Tea Tree Oil Mattifying Lotion to prep her skin for makeup. Then he uses Revlon Skinlights Instant Skin Brightener to make Iza's skin radiant.

"It's a skin illuminator," he says. "It's similar to liquid foundation but has light reflecting pigments."

To enhance Iza's pretty glow, Mike uses Nars Blush in Orgasm on her cheeks.

If you're looking to get some celebrity sparkle, here are some tips to make you shine like Iza:

Hair

Your crowning glory will truly capture attention when it's shiny and healthy-looking. Whether you're a va-va-voom curly top or a sleek straight-haired one, add shine to your locks with a simple hair serum. It fights frizz, controls stubborn flyaways for straight-haired maidens and brings out individual waves for curled goddesses.

Try:

- Kerastase Reflection Chroma Protect Protective Polishing Cream, P1,300
- Tigi Catwalk Fashionista Smooth & Shine, P1,390

Face

When it comes to your skin, the keyword is glow. Shine means oil spills! For stars, it's also important to not look too matte since this tends to look chalky in photographs. To get the gleaming look of stars, use shimmer cream on strategic spots on your face—cheekbones, the bridge of your nose—then tone down oily areas like cheeks and forehead with translucent powder.

Try:

- The Body Shop Brilliance Powder, P950
- Shu Uemura Luster Gel, P1,675

Body

Be red-carpet worthy with the secret weapon of celebs: shimmer lotion. Legs, shoulders and arms look toned and silky smooth when you use this glimmering body cream. Add sexiness to your décolletage by smoothing it over your cleavage and collarbones so that these spots catch the light. If you find lotion heavy, try light body oils to achieve the same silken look.

Try:

- Jergens Soft Shimmer Moisturizer, P195
- VMV Hypoallergenics Fresh Moisture Skin Dew Body Oil, P469.75

Frances Amper writes for Ok! magazine.

PHOTOS PAOLO PINEDA
0918-9375498

First step in seeking beauty perfection is to learn how to hide your flaws

BEFORE

AFTER

Skin sense

By Barbi Chan
Contributor

ONE MORNING you wake up and notice that the lines in your eyes are deeper, broken capillaries occupy half of your face and worry lines suddenly appear on your forehead.

We cannot stop the ravage of time but we can delay it if we will only learn to adapt to the changes happening to our face. The makeup that you've been wearing for the past 10 years may not have the same effect now.

The gel blush that you are so accustomed to use may suddenly appear streaky and dead. And you wonder, what is happening? Did they change ingredients or what? sadly, the answer is no, you changed. The simple truth is you may depend on or need make up more but need less of it.

1. Moisturize first before applying base. this will help improve any dry area of the skin. Remember though to use it sparingly because too much can cause the base to slide.

2. Instead of using cake foundation, try sticking to liquid or cream. This is more gentle on the lines and will not give you that cracked, masque look. Look for a base that has light-reflecting properties. This will give the illusion of a line-free, younger skin.

3: Apply blush using the creme type. Powder blush may aggravate the lines on the skin, while gel type may stain the skin. apply the blush using circular motion starting at the apple of your cheeks going to your hairline. colors that will warm the skin are pale rose, apricots, melons and berry.

4. The skin on the eyes may be wrinkled and have bluish-red tone. Avoid using strong colors and iridescent shades. Too much sparkle or shine will definitely call attention and may accentuate the lines. Use muted neutrals like soft browns, peach, brownish gray. Eyeliner now is more important than ever. Apply on the upper lash to open up the eyes.

5. For the lips, avoid using matte lipsticks because this will create dryness and emphasize lines, while high-gloss lipsticks can bleed and highlight wrinkles. Stick with creamy textures. It is better to apply lip liner first that is the same shade as the lip color to be used, this will keep the lipstick from bleeding into the lines around the mouth. Brush a little foundation around the outside of your lips and set with powder. then apply the lipstick. If you want a hint of gloss, apply it in the middle of your lips over your lip color. Colors that will complement are muted pink, soft browns, muted apricot, peach, reddish brown and mauve.

For a night out, just curl lashes and add two coats of mascara on your upper and lower lash. the lipstick a little and add a little eyeliner on your lower lid for that glam look. Remember that the trick in doing your make up now is to emphasize your best feature and hide the signs of time.

MAKEUP BARBI CHAN 0917-8460738
PHOTOS PAOLO PINEDA 0918-9375498
MODEL DINNA ANG

E-mail me at
rbeauty@inquirer.com.ph

'Paris Hilton'

Tress de-stress!

By Ria Francisco-Prieto

'Jennifer Aniston'

I ALMOST FELL OF MY chair with excitement when I saw what the Tigi products could do to my hair. My crowning glory requires a slew of products and treatments galore to look decent. And with products like Tigi, I know I've won half the battle.

Considering that we come from a conservative country, we are surprisingly quite experimental when it comes to hair trends. The abuse we subject our hair to such as coloring, rebonding, curling and plain exposure to the sun is torture, to say the least.

Thankfully, there are products like Tigi that can suit our every need—or should I say, every whim?

So now, when I feel like having sleek straight hair a la Jennifer Aniston, I know Tigi's Bed Head Superstar Thermal Blow Drying Lotion and Control Freak Serum is the product to use. And if I want Paris Hilton-like waves, the Uptight Heat-Activated Curl Maker will do the job.

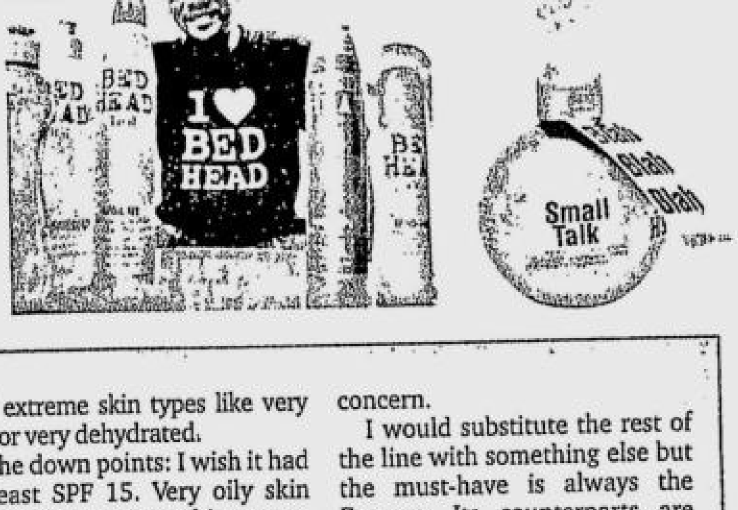
I don't have to go to the salon and risk having permanent procedures done. So, I also minimize hair damage.

No more compromises. I can now have a stylish do minus all the damage. And if that's not enough to make me fall off my chair, I don't know what is.

Basement Salon is at 2/L, Power Plant Mall, Rockwell. Call 8982222.

HAIR ANGELO JUSTIN
FOR BASEMENT SALON
MODEL PHOEMELA BARANDA

BED HEAD
TIGI
CONTROL FREAK



HAIR stylist Angelo Justin with TIGI products

Breakthroughs in products

MAKEOVER 911

Kinny Salas

SHINE with products that add sheen.

WHEN I CLICKED ON MY e-mail from L'Oreal Philippines and saw its invitation for three major products they were launching, I felt I just had to be there because two products addressed my top beauty concerns. The third product is for taming curly, coarse hair, which is also a top Filipina concern since natural curls or waves turn to frizz due to our climate's high humidity. The prices are all under P1,000 for these top-quality products, so those on a budget can afford them.

L'Oreal True Match Liquid Foundation, P849—Any makeup guru will tell you that finding the foundation shade that blends perfectly with one's skin is already winning half the battle. Oftentimes, and I know I am not alone, I find myself between shades and end up spending more by buying both and mixing them.

There are nine foundation shades for True Match in the country. In the US, there are 24 shades total, but the L'Oreal filtered out those that were too pink, too light or too dark for Asian skin to simplify the selection.

I was matched to N1 Nude Ivory. I suggest you take advantage of the testers on counter or the trained salesperson to match a shade to your skin.

My experiment was cleaning my face and just applying the foundation hurriedly with my fingers. I did not include any other makeup like concealer or powder. I later joined my family for dinner out. They immediately asked me what my skincare products were because my skin looked so radiant and perfect even without makeup. The makeup covered up broken capillaries, dark under-eye circles, about-to-fade red and brown pimple marks, and skin redness on certain areas.

My normal to oily skin stayed fresh-looking for four good hours and retouching it with anti-shine pressed powder maintained the flawless finish. That gave this line a 10/10 in my book.

My kin had known me all my life but could not tell if I was wearing any makeup.

The new line is perfect for most skin types except those with very prominent blemishes, wrinkles and extreme skin types like very oily or very dehydrated.

The down points: I wish it had at least SPF 15. Very oily skin needs frequent retouching, especially in places without air-conditioner and in humid areas.

Beating aging

Revitalift White Essence, P995—L'Oreal has become an expert at multitasking, and I was definitely the target market for this particular skin treatment. Its target demographic is women from 35 years old upwards whose concern is anti-aging and beating the first few signs of aging in the form of fine lines and minor loss of firmness, fading skin pigmentation and uneven skin tone.

Actress Gong Li, who has been L'Oreal's skincare endorser for the past five years, is at least 39 years old and does not look a day over the early 20s mark.

It is the best seller in the L'Oreal range worldwide, because of its effectivity and reasonable price. For those who are not as addicted to beauty products like me, the Essence serum or treatment is the most potent formula in the skincare regimen. It is the item you would expect the most results from to solve your beauty concern.

I would substitute the rest of the line with something else but the must-have is always the Essence. Its counterparts are easily P2,000 and above compared to its P995. I will update you with the results when I have been using it for 30 days at least.

Straigthtening

L'Oreal Studio Hot Liss, P449—Those who hate their curly, unmanageable hair will fall in love with this. During the demo, this was applied to a model with very thick curly hair; a flat iron was used; in one swipe, the hair was straightened.

It wasn't the stiff broom-like texture you get from old fashioned straightening with harsh chemicals, but her hair was swinging, silky and soft, worthy of a shampoo commercial.

Very little amount is needed so the bottle will last about a month or so with daily use. It will last more if you have thin hair.

Right now, I'm already thinking which lucky friend of mine will get this for Christmas as my hair is already stick straight and limp.

E-mail kinnysalas@yahoo.com

What do you wish to hide and what do you seek?

by Ria Francsico-Prieto

Eyebags and zits! I seek for remedies to get rid of the above. **–Pat Keirulf, Sacred Heart Academy Pasig assistant director**

I want to hide imperfections such as zits, my insecurities and bitten nails. I wish to seek my washboard abs and my boyfriend's attention. **–Anna Cruz, Tagaytay Highlands sales manager**

I wish to hide body-slimming products that are stacked in my bathroom and seek a potion that will allow me to eat anything I want forever. **–Mia Cuenca, Luxasia general manager**

I want something that cover my under-eye circles. Im looking for something that will give my skin glow when Im tired and lack sleep. **–Ines Bautista, Candy magazine EIC**

I wish to hide stained nails from nail polish and I seek clients that are sure to buy when they call. **–Giselle Sityar, SM Development Corporation sales manager**

Beauty is a relative term. I would rather seek beauty from within, and hide what's physically debilitating. **–Trisha Ocampo, MTV Philippines account manager**

At my age, I look for anti-aging creams to reduce lines and wrinkles. I look for creams and moisturizers that are not greasy. **–Carol Teodoro, businesswoman**

E-mail me at
rbeauty@inquirer.com.ph

Behold new skin

By Alex Y. Vergara

Dr. Vicki Belo reveals the next big things as far as beauty and skin care go

OVER THE PAST SEVERAL MONTHS, not a few high-profile clients have attested to the wonders of Belo Thermage in their battle to keep tell-tale signs of aging at bay.

The same principles which have made Belo Thermage such a heaven-sent procedure for the likes of Lorna Tolentino, Albert Martinez, Susan Reyes and Margie Moran-Floirendo can now be applied to other parts of the body such as the back, stomach, arms, knees and elbows.

Fresh from a trip to Sienna, Italy, where she was inducted into the International Scientific Carbon Dioxide Therapy Group, Dr. Vicki Belo, medical director of the Belo Medical Group, reveals to the INQUIRER the next big things as far as beauty and skin care go.

"Developments in this field are still growing by leaps and bounds," says Belo. "To keep in step with the times, I have to keep researching and investing huge amounts of money on all sorts of new machines and procedures."

Non-facial areas

Dubbed as a nonsurgical form of facelift for people in their 40's and 50's, Belo Thermage emits radio frequencies that "wound" the tissues beneath the face to hasten their reparative and regenerative process. The one-hour treatment involves a series of passes on the cheeks, forehead, chin, jaw line and even the nose.

Belo says the same technology can now be applied on other parts of the body to address such common problems as sagging and wrinkling. Just like what it does to the face, Belo Thermage also tightens the muscles of the legs, arms, back and what have you by boosting their collagen production. The treatment requires sedation.

Flash Lamp Pulsed Dye Laser

Hills and valleys should pertain to earth's terrain and not to your face. But if they are parts of your facial topography in the form of keloids and acne scars, they can now be flattened in six to 10 sessions through a combination of the Flash Lamp Pulsed Dye Laser and the V Beam and Blue Peel, an improved version of Dermabrasion. The laser zeroes in on anything reddish (the supposed color of keloids and acne scars).

If aged skin lacks collagen, the opposite is true for sections of the skin with keloids and acne scars. By softening excess collagen in these problem areas, the Flash Lamp Pulsed Dye Laser evens out the skin's texture for a near-flawless complexion.

Nd/YAG

Do you find going under the knife too drastic in your pursuit to siphon off excess fat?

The Nd/YAG is the patient's newest ally in her battle with the bulge. Unlike the more invasive liposuction, this latest development is a laser-assisted liposuction machine designed to get rid of minor lumps and bumps impervious to exercise and dieting.

Whereas the "lipo light" is rubbed repeatedly on problem areas to get the desired effect, the Nd/YAG comes with a probe that's directly inserted under the skin to literally melt the fat away. This unwanted element, in turn, is eliminated via the person's stool.

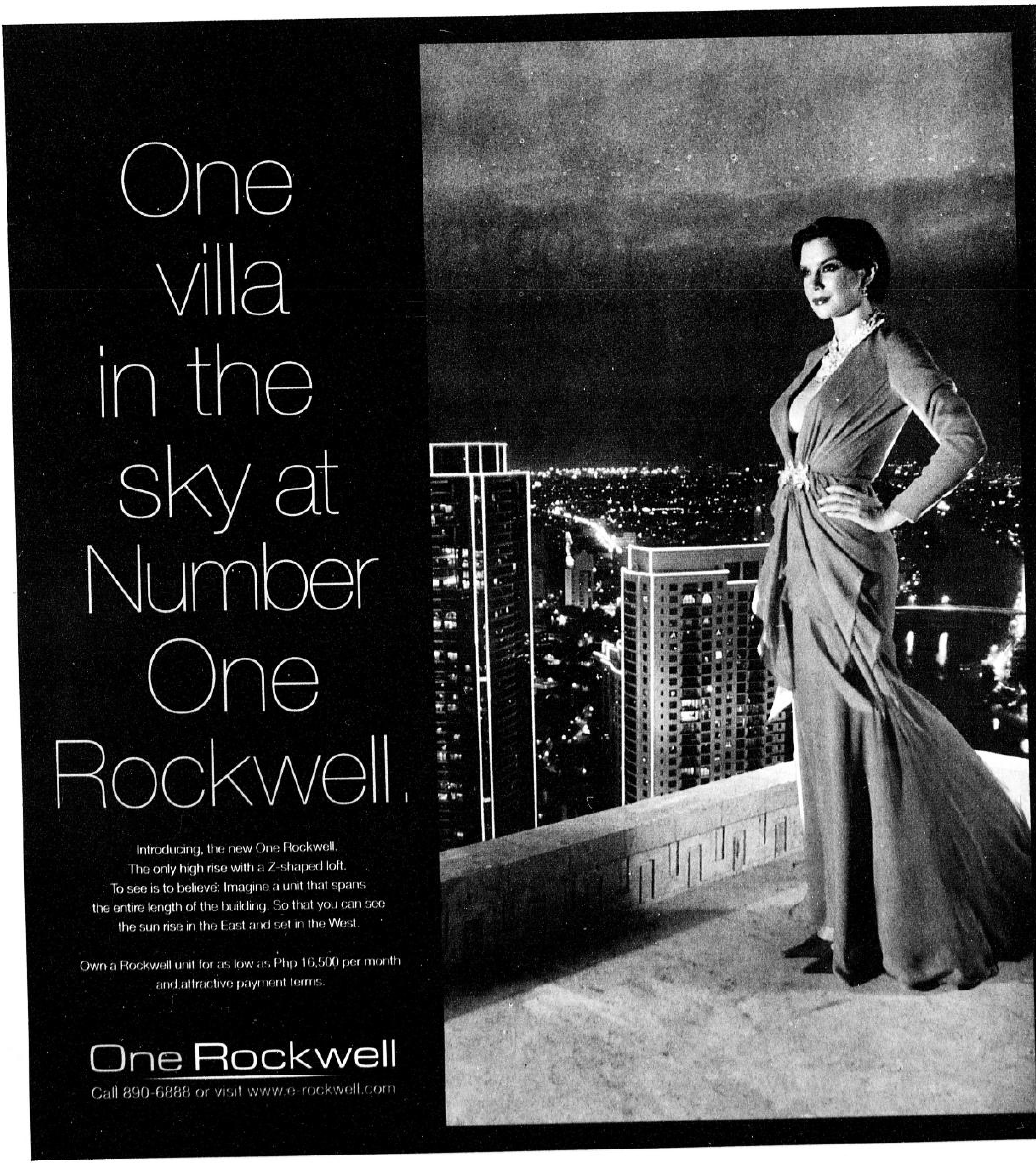
Such a "skin-deep" process is reportedly more effective than the superficial approach. For one, Nd/YAG is able to get around the skin, which in itself acts as a barrier. The treatment requires local anesthesia.

Multiclear

No, lotions and other topical solutions won't do the trick. If you're close to giving up hope of ever banishing those pesky stretch marks, take heart because Multiclear is here.

Instead of lasers, Multiclear emits bands of light designed to even out the color of the skin. That's why Belo also recommends the procedure to help get rid of scars and vitiligo. To even out the texture of damaged skin due to stretch marks, Multiclear should be combined with Carbon Dioxide Therapy.

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph



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SM SUPERCENTER MOLINO

Reaches out to more Caviteños in Bacoor!

Now there are 22! SM Supercenter, a member of the growing chain of SM Supermalls is opening its doors to residents of Barangay Molino and neighboring communities in Bacoor, Cavite. Open daily from 10am to 9pm, SM Supercenter Molino is conveniently located along Molino Boulevard, Bacoor, Cavite. The new SM Supercenter offers more shopping, more dining, and more fun options for the whole family.

The opening of SM Supercenter Molino fulfills a dream of SM Supermalls to reach out and get closer to more communities and neighborhoods nationwide.

More stores to serve you!

APPAREL & SHOES

Arrow•Bench•Mendrez•Osh Kosh B' Gosh•Oxygen•Penshoppe• Penshoppe Teenlab•Pink Soda / Blue Soda•Rusty Lopez•Sabella•Shapes•Surplus Shop

FOOD

Chowking•Goldilocks•Greenwich•Jollibee•KFC•Max's•Pizza Hut•Red Bell Pizza•Tokyo Tokyo•Wendy's

HEALTH & ACCESSORIES

David's Salon•Dental Focus•Going Straight•GQ Barbershop•Let's Face It Salon•Southhill Medical Clinic and Diagnostic Center•Watsons

SPORTING GOODS/NOVELTIES

Toby's

COMPUTERS & GADGETS

Astroplus•Netopia• New Egg Computer•Odyssey•Video City

BOOKS/OFFICE & SCHOOL SUPPLIES

National Bookstore

SERVICE ESTABLISHMENTS

BDO•DGD Trading•Executive Optical•Ideal Vision Center•LBC • Galaxy Photoshop • Games & Gadgets•Globe•Globelines•Kid's Village•Quantum•Smart Wireless Center•Tom's World•Wellcom•YKL Color Laboratory

SPECIALTY STORES

Gems & Jewels•Pink Box•Unisilver

HARDWARE & APPLIANCE

Ace Hardware•SM Appliance

CARTS

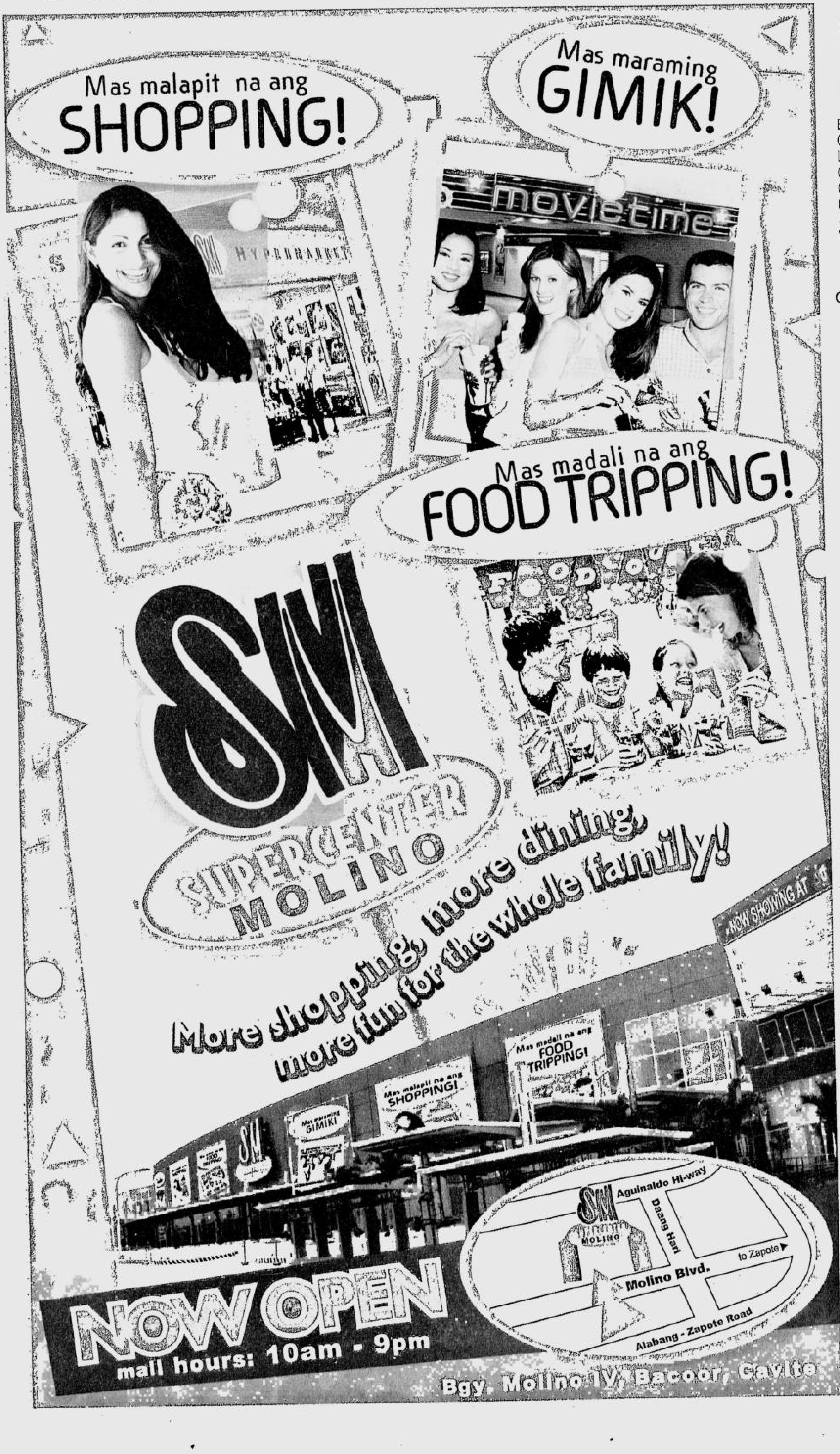
Afficionado•Balayong Bakery•Brownies Unlimited•Dairy Planet • Fruitas • House of Praise•Key Express•Kingcorn•Lights Up•Pick n' Mix Candy Store•Popperoo•Scents&Blends•Scoopery•Sondrik•Waffle Fun•Waffle Ville

KIOSKS

Annie's Belgian Chocolates•Candy Corner • Elov Chinese Drugstore • Flywear • Graphic Works Desktop Publishing•Kidi Ideas•Lighters Galore•Lollipop Safety Balloons Center•Lucky Circle•Prescripto•Star Ink Shop

COUNTERS

Fiorgelato Café•
The Big Chill / Jamaican Patties


Mas malapit na ang SHOPPING!
Mas maraming GIMIK!
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SM SUPERCENTER MOLINO
More shopping, more dining, more fun for the whole family!
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All the fun, All the time

SM CINEMA

More fun and savings options are being offered to patrons of SM Cinema Molino . With **Movie Bundle 1**, billed as **Ticket Savers,** you get 4 cinema tickets for only P300. Offer is good from November 18 to 24. With **Movie Bundle 2**, called **Snack Savers** you get a regular-sized popcorn and 12-oz. juice with a purchase of a premiere movie ticket. All these for only P130 from November 25 to December 24.

SM FOODCOURT

A popular dining and snacking venue for mall shoppers, SM Foodcourt offers **lunch packs** tagged at special prices and **merienda meals** at big savings.

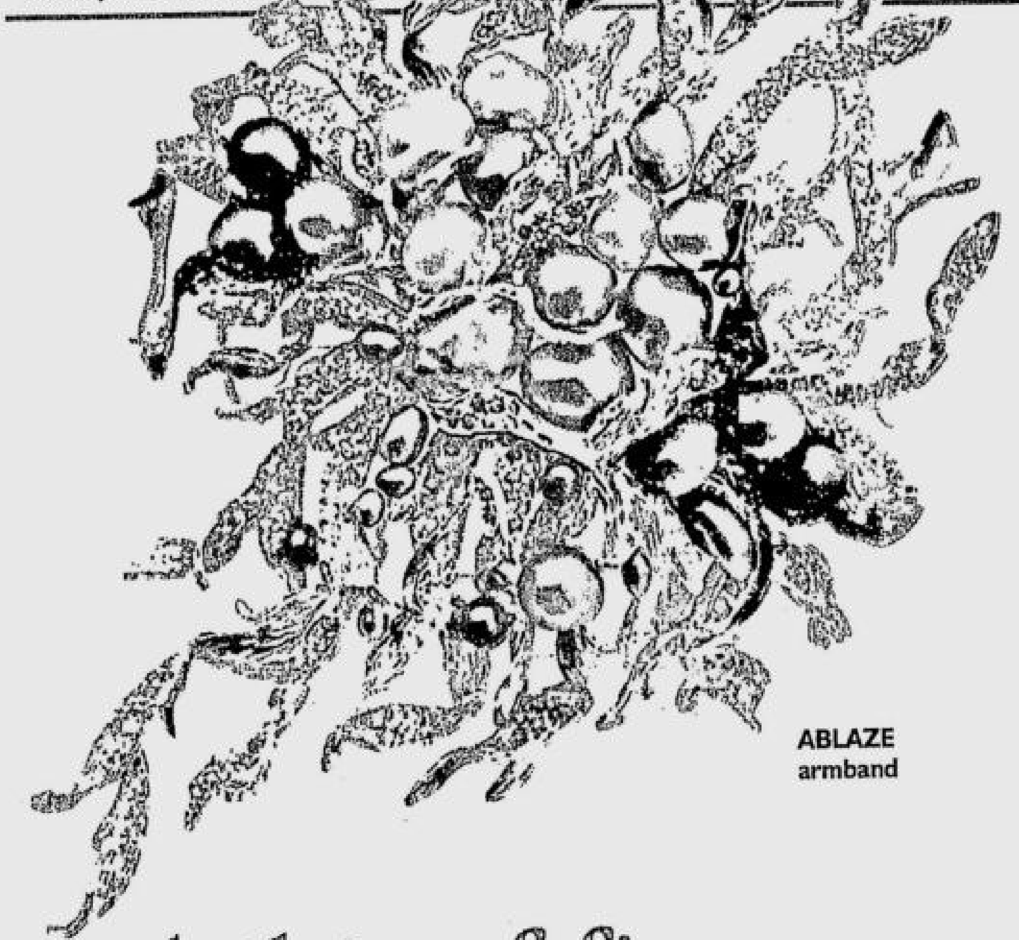
SUPER SM HYPERMARKET

As its opening salvo, Super SM Hypermarket Molino extends its **Shop 'n Win** promotion to local shoppers, giving them the chance to be among the winners of over P15 million worth of shopping money!

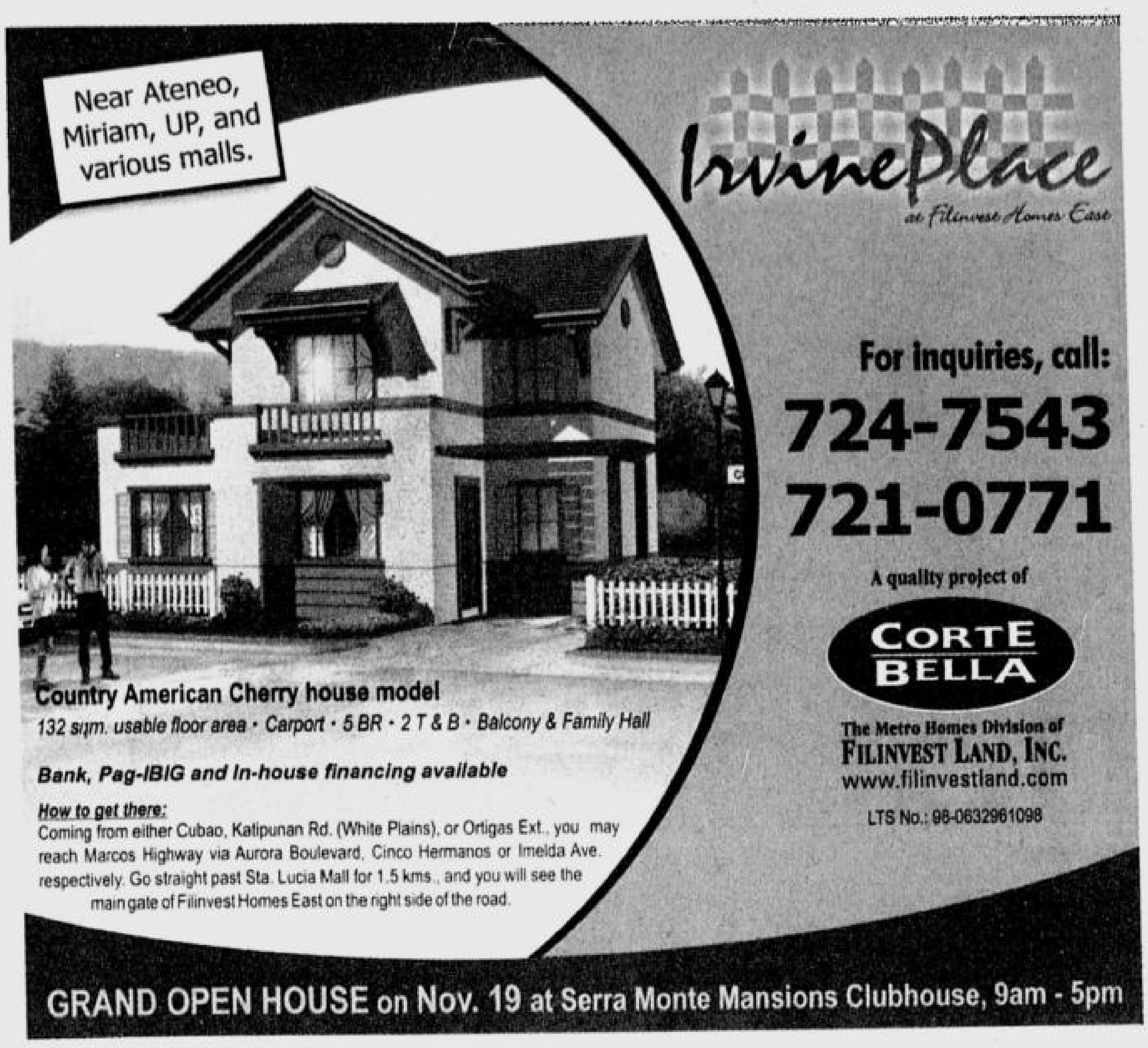
FRIDAY,
NOVEMBER 18, 2005 PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

LIFESTYLE

...ack, e-mail us at
...e@inquirer.com.ph
Text us your feedback: inquirer ... (2207 ...e) or ... smart)



ABLAZE
armband



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GRAND OPEN HOUSE on Nov. 19 at Serra Monte Mansions Clubhouse, 9am - 5pm

Exhibit of fine jewellery

GOTHIC, GEOMETRIC, ethnic and nature-inspired, plus lots of colors, twirls and swirls. These are just some of the designs jewelry lovers will see in the Rockwell Jewellery Show, running until Nov. 20, at Power Plant Mall in Rockwell.

Now on its fourth year, the show is presented by the Guild of Philippine Jewellers Inc. (GPJ) and will feature 18 member companies showcasing their finest and most exciting creations in pearls, gold and silver jewelry.

GPJ has recently seen to it that interested members get much-needed exposure in international jewelry shows like Vicenza Oro 1 and 2, Orogemma-Vicenza, Italy and the Hong Kong International Jewelry Show.

Joining the show are Acme Jewelry, Alcon Jewelry Inc., Artebylis, Dam Good Stuff Inc., DJ Distinction House of Jewels, Gold Crafters Inc., Goldenhills Jewelry, Gold 'N Gems, Jewelmer, JMA Jewelry Inc., Lanero Jewellery, Mercelles, Michelis, My Diamond, New Life Jewelry, Oro Y Plata, Sterling Gifts Inc. and Yamang Katutubo.

Gothic Chic feature pieces that have swords, daggers, dragons, roses, crucifixes and thorns, with lots of darkened metals and reds.

Ethnic Elegance draws from African, Indian, Native American and Brazilian cultures, tweaked to reflect the choices of modern women.

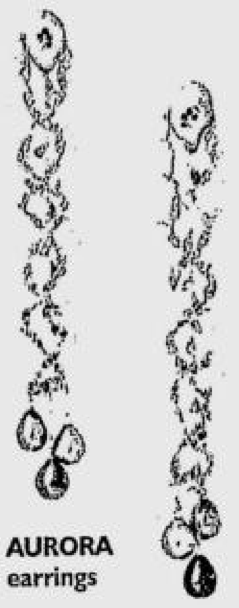
With Geometric Style, expect to see lots of circles, crosses, squares, hearts, stars and spirals in the show.

Nature-Inspired has lots of flowers for a veritable ode to femininity.

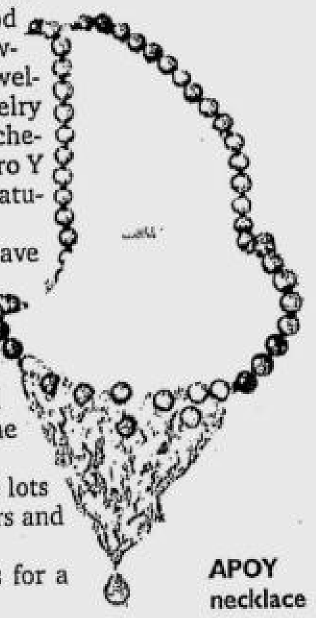
An interesting jewelry set that buyers will see in the show is Mercelles' Ablaze armband, a fire-inspired artwork featuring Tahitian pearls set in twirls and twirls of yellow, white and rose gold bedecked with rubies and diamonds.

Mercelles' Ablaze armband won second runner up in the accessory category in the Tahitian Pearl Trophy 2005 Asia by Perles de Tahiti GIE.

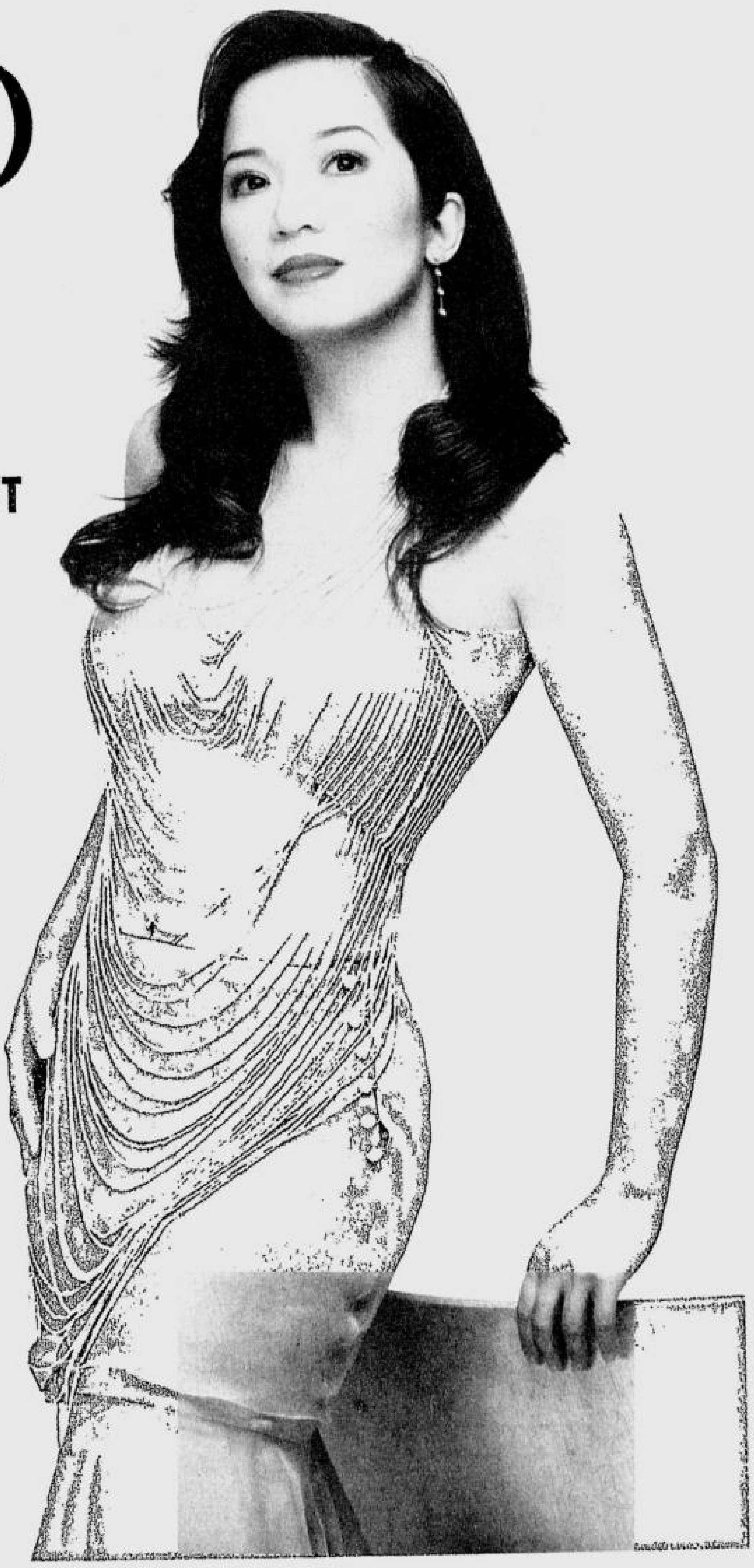
Visit www.guildofphilippinesjewellersinc.com. Call 72817-22 or 7281726.



AURORA
earrings



APOY
necklace



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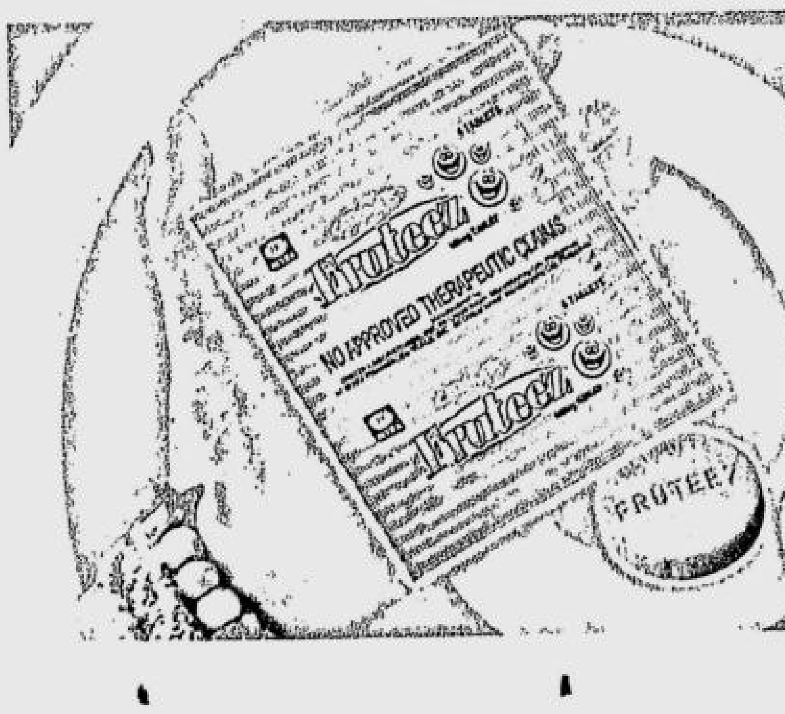

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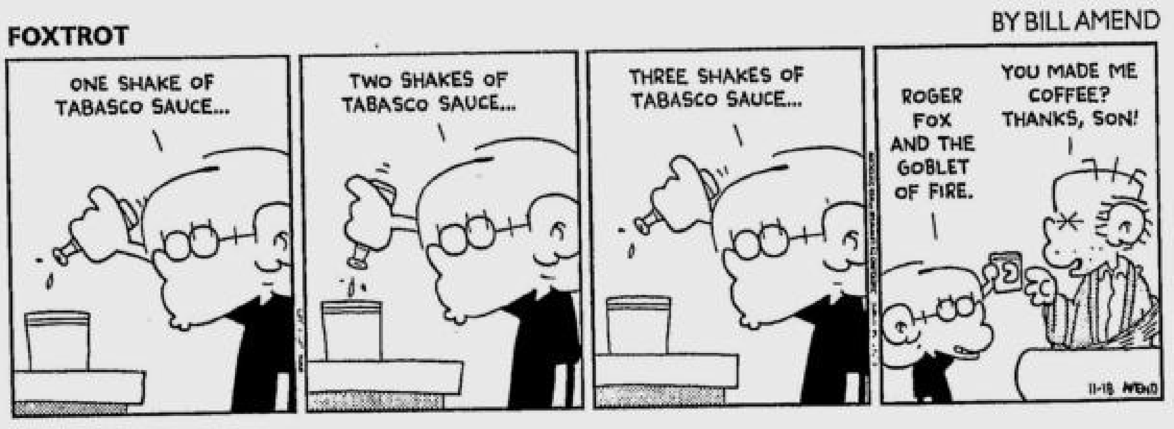
6 chewable tablets
P3.00 each

Ang Saya maging Healthy!

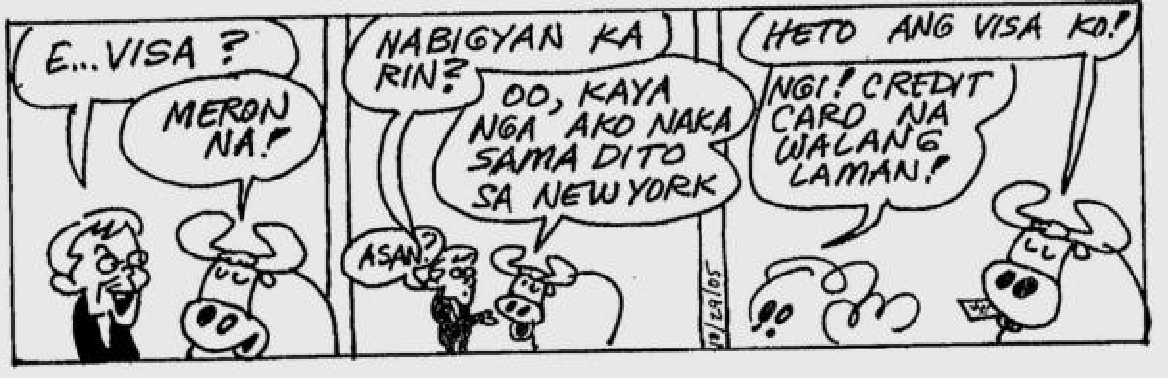
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


ONE SHAKE OF TABASCO SAUCE...
TWO SHAKES OF TABASCO SAUCE...
THREE SHAKES OF TABASCO SAUCE...
ROGER FOX AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE.
YOU MADE ME COFFEE? THANKS, SON!
11-18 AMEND

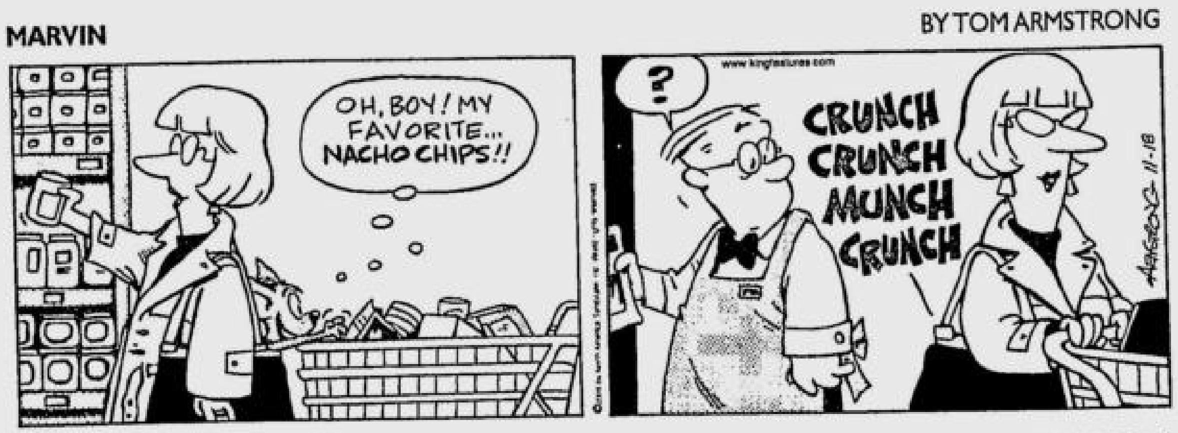
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


E... VISA ?
MERON NA!
NABIGYAN KA RIN?
OO, KAYA NGA AKO NAKA SAMA DITO SA NEW YORK
ASAN?
HETO ANG VISA KO!
NGI! CREDIT CARD NA WALANG LAMAN!

MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


OH, BOY! MY FAVORITE... NACHO CHIPS!!
?
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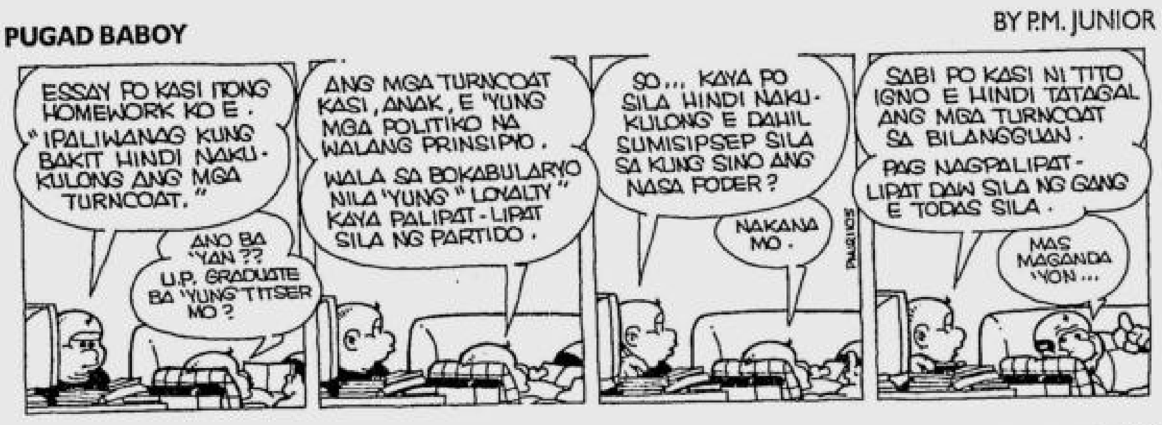
CRUNCH CRUNCH MUNCH CRUNCH
ARMSTRONG 11-18

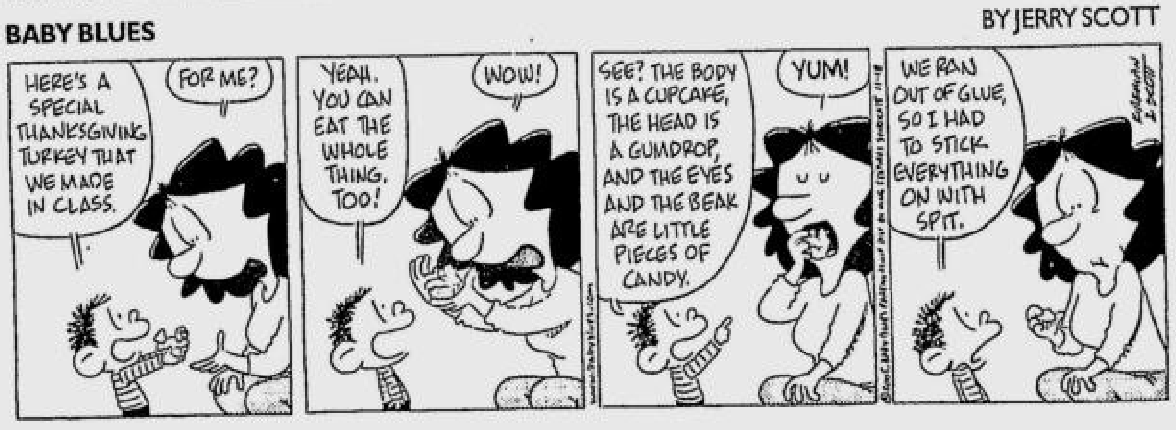
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


ESSAY PO KASI ITONG HOMEWORK KO E. "IPALIWANAG KUNG BAKIT HINDI NAKUKULONG ANG MGA TURNCOAT."
ANO BA 'YAN ?? U.P. GRADUATE BA 'YUNG TITSER MO ?
ANG MGA TURNCOAT KASI, ANAK, E 'YUNG MGA POLITIKO NA WALANG PRINSIPYO.
WALA SA BOKABULARYO NILA 'YUNG "LOYALTY" KAYA PALIPAT-LIPAT SILA NG PARTIDO.
SO... KAYA PO SILA HINDI NAKUKULONG E DAHIL SUMISIPSEP SILA SA KUNG SINO ANG NASA PODER?
NAKANA MO.
SABI PO KASI NI TITO IGNO E HINDI TATAGAL ANG MGA TURNCOAT SA BILANGGUAN.
PAG NAGPALIPAT-LIPAT DAW SILA NG GANG E TODAS SILA.
MAS MAGANDA 'YON...

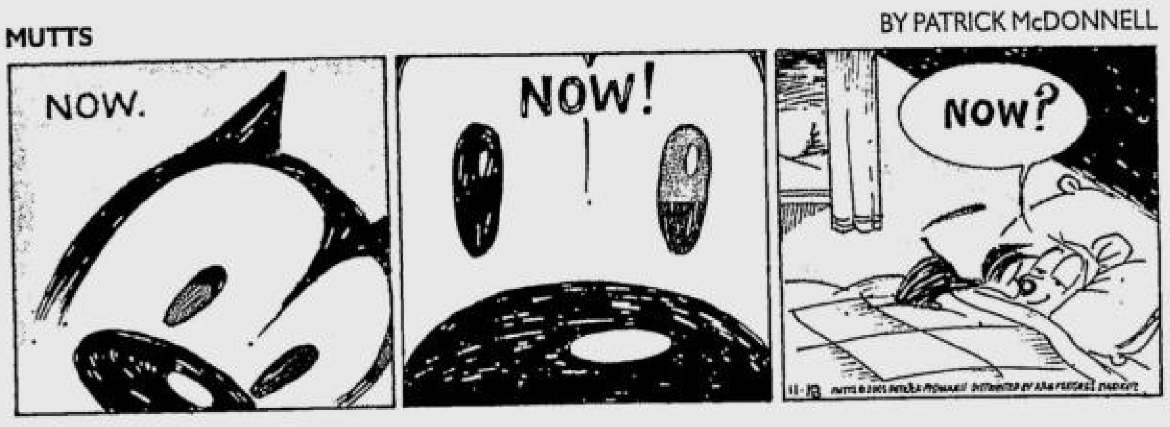
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


HERE'S A SPECIAL THANKSGIVING TURKEY THAT WE MADE IN CLASS.
FOR ME?
YEAH. YOU CAN EAT THE WHOLE THING, TOO!
WOW!
SEE? THE BODY IS A CUPCAKE, THE HEAD IS A GUMDROP, AND THE EYES AND THE BEAK ARE LITTLE PIECES OF CANDY.
YUM!
WE RAN OUT OF GLUE, SO I HAD TO STICK EVERYTHING ON WITH SPIT.
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

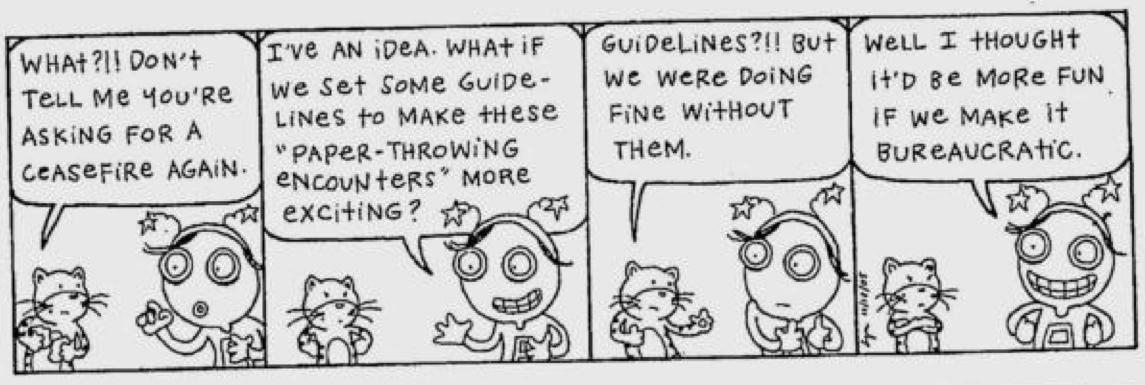
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


NOW.
NOW!
NOW?
11-18

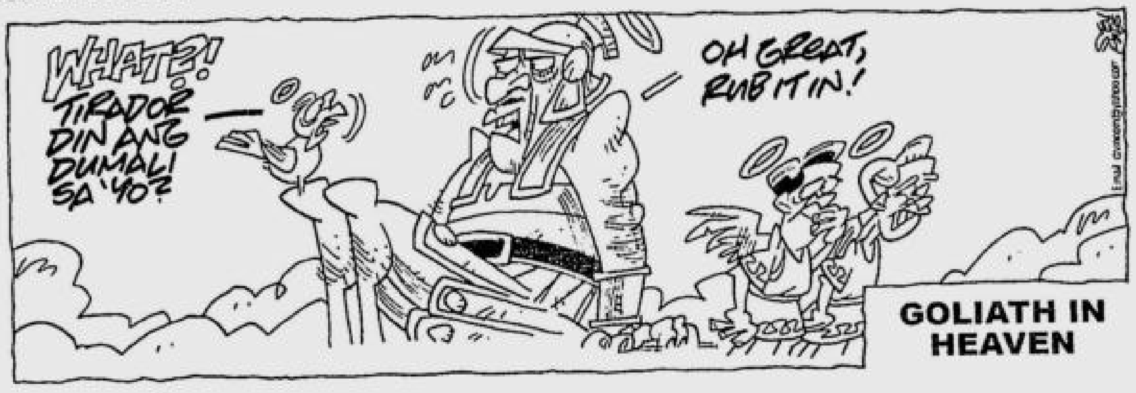
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


WHAT?!! DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE ASKING FOR A CEASEFIRE AGAIN.
I'VE AN IDEA. WHAT IF WE SET SOME GUIDELINES TO MAKE THESE "PAPER-THROWING ENCOUNTERS" MORE EXCITING?
GUIDELINES?!! BUT WE WERE DOING FINE WITHOUT THEM.
WELL I THOUGHT IT'D BE MORE FUN IF WE MAKE IT BUREAUCRATIC.

DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


WHAT?!
TIRADOR DIN ANG DUMALI SA 'YO?
OH GREAT, RUB IT IN!
GOLIATH IN HEAVEN

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You radiate confidence and ambition. You have a natural social flair and a sharp mind. You easily get to the bottom of things. You're an excellent communicator, and very convincing. You love freedom and adventure in your youth, but turn more serious after age 34. Expect to wrap up an important cycle this year. Let go and move on.

Birthdate of: Owen Wilson, actor; Linda Evans, actress; Alan Shepard, astronaut.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Financial worries might create a bit of stress today. Try not to force financial issues. Best to give things a sober, second thought.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Don't push the river today. Your efforts will be blocked by authority figures. It's in your best interest to wait. Whatever you do today, proceed slowly.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): This is not a good day to deal with the government or large institutions. Unseen forces seem to thwart your efforts. It's best to bide your time, if you can.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): For whatever reason, fear seems to prevent you from doing something today. You might fear failure. You might fear a confrontation with someone. If you feel this way, do nothing.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): All your dealings with authority figures will be dicey today. Your efforts to assert yourself are somehow blocked. This is not a good day to push your plans forward.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Travel delays and obstacles related to the media, publishing and higher education are likely to arise today. Just be patient with whatever happens.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Don't be discouraged if others are uncooperative today. Someone might refuse to lend you something or let you use something. This is just a temporary setback.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Dealings with partners are difficult today. Therefore, don't ask for the Moon. Remember that others are laboring under the same obstacles. In other words, you're not alone.

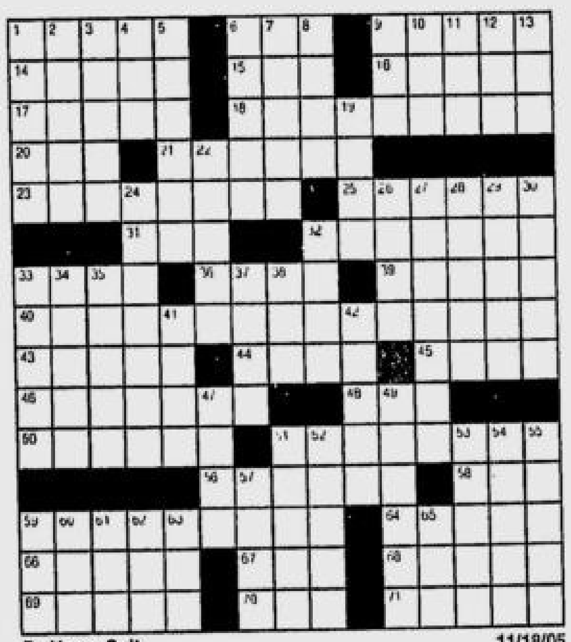
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): It's not easy to encourage co-workers to agree with you today. Therefore, don't even try. People are irritated with restrictions that are placed on them today. Go gently.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): For some reason you feel that your own worst suspicions about yourself are confirmed today. This shakes your self-confidence. But this is just an illusion! Don't take it seriously.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Small appliances or machinery might break down today. Domestic arguments are also likely. You definitely need to be extra-patient with everything and everyone at home.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): The problem with today is that one part of you wants to be aggressive and bold, and the other part of you wants to hold back and be conservative. You can't suck and blow at the same time.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Verna Suit
Silver Spring, MD
11/18/05

ACROSS
1 Indian tea or state
6 2050
9 Minimum
14 Colette novel
15 Letters of credit
16 Sheepish
17 Damages
18 Miss Prissyface?
20 Ostrich cousin
21 Lover
23 Miss Blockhead?
25 Chatted
31 Fuss
32 Impair steadily
33 E.g., e.g.
36 California wine valley
39 Fuzzy fruit
40 Mr. Braveheart?
43 Jazz clarinetist Shaw
44 Dock of the bay
45 Understands
46 Prepares leftovers
48 Fury
50 Chafing-dish fuel
51 Miss Sugarpie?
56 Sake
58 Author Beattie
59 Mr. Worrywart?
64 Dark
66 Singer Gorme
67 Ex-Giant Mel
68 "48 Hrs." star
69 Staggers dizzily
70 Bishopric
71 Clothesline alternative

DOWN
1 Suffered soreness
2 Whale star
3 Blood component
4 Limb
5 Get the wrong total
6 Petty
7 Shearer of "The Red Shoes"
8 Clare Booth __
9 Actor Chaney
10 First lady
11 Feel poorly
12 NBC show since 1975
13 Author of "The Daughter of Time"
19 It follows that
22 "Lorna __"
24 Obstruction
26 Boats like Noah's
27 Diarist Jones?
28 "Fame" singer
29 Decree
30 Some secretaries
32 Type of society
33 __ and Issas (Djibouti)
34 Topper in France
35 Soak in the tub
37 Slithery killers
38 Greek letter
41 Slim
42 Bay window
47 Character jug
49 Money back
51 "On the Beach" author
52 Refuse
53 Charlie Brown's sister
54 Bring together
55 Computer key
57 Conscious selves
59 Aus. neighbor
60 Caustic stuff
61 Emotional poem
62 Squeak need
63 French possessive pronoun
65 Neither partner

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

B	U	M	■	T	R	E	Y	■	E	C	L	A	I	R
A	N	Y	■	E	A	S	E	■	B	R	O	N	C	O
T	H	E	R	E	I	S	A	■	B	U	S	T	E	D
H	A	Y	R	I	D	E	■	S	T	E	T	■	■	■
E	T	E	R	N	E	■	H	A	I	L	■	A	H	A
■	■	■	■	G	R	E	A	T	D	E	A	L	O	F
L	U	S	H	■	S	I	D	■	E	S	C	O	R	T
A	H	E	A	D	■	N	I	L	■	T	E	N	S	E
T	H	A	N	E	S	■	A	M	T	■	S	E	E	R
H	U	M	A	N	N	A	T	U	R	E	■	■	■	■
S	H	Y	■	A	O	N	E	■	A	M	B	L	E	D
■	■	■	E	T	O	N	■	E	M	B	R	A	C	E
H	E	A	D	U	P	■	I	N	P	E	O	P	L	E
E	N	T	I	R	E	■	S	O	L	D	■	S	A	D
D	O	T	T	E	D	■	U	S	E	S	■	E	T	S

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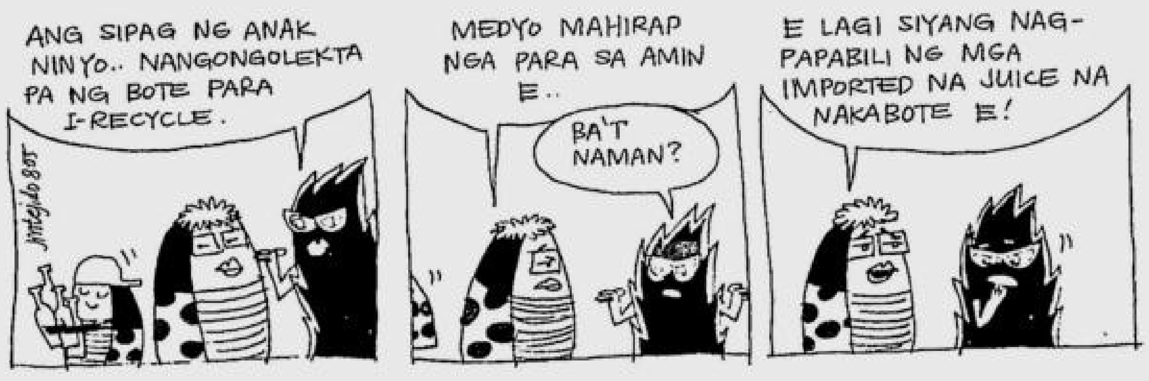
11/18/05

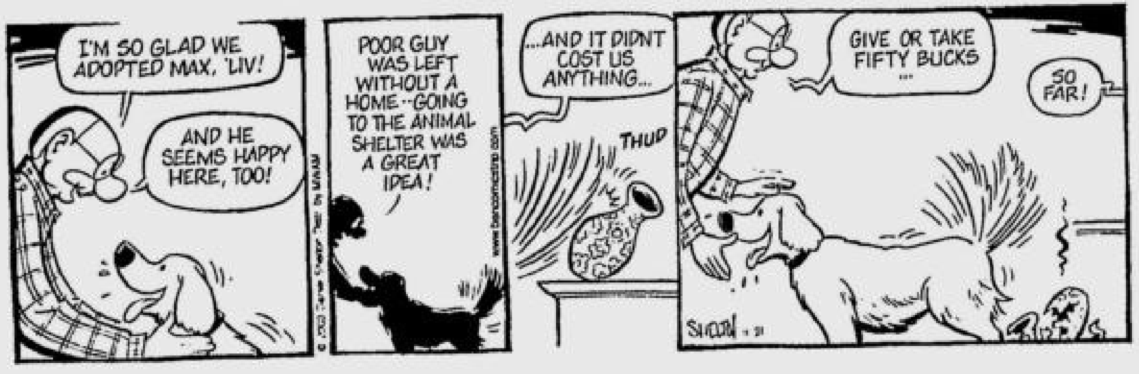
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


ANG SIPAG NG ANAK NINYO.. NANGONGOLEKTA PA NG BOTE PARA I-RECYCLE.
MEDYO MAHIRAP NGA PARA SA AMIN E..
BA'T NAMAN?
E LAGI SIYANG NAGPAPABILI NG MGA IMPORTED NA JUICE NA NAKABOTE E!

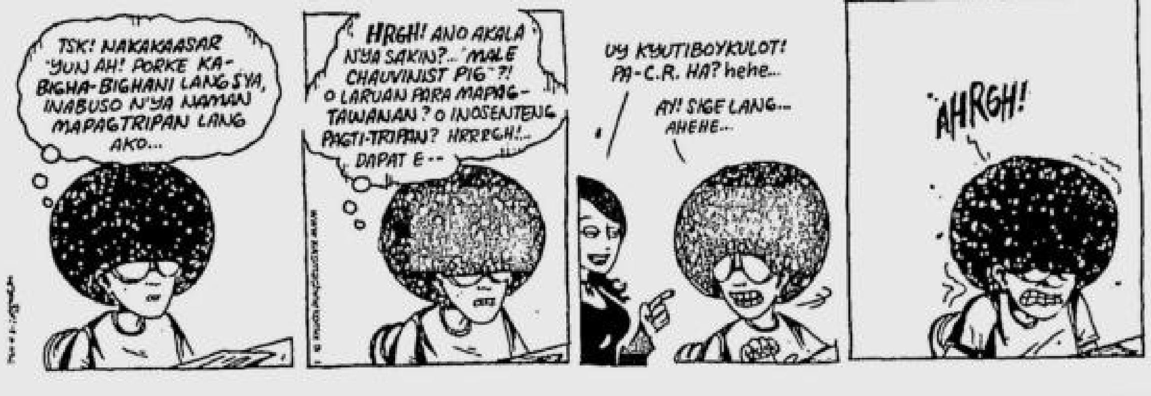
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


I'M SO GLAD WE ADOPTED MAX, 'LIV!
AND HE SEEMS HAPPY HERE, TOO!
POOR GUY WAS LEFT WITHOUT A HOME--GOING TO THE ANIMAL SHELTER WAS A GREAT IDEA!
...AND IT DIDN'T COST US ANYTHING...
THUD
GIVE OR TAKE FIFTY BUCKS ...
SO FAR!

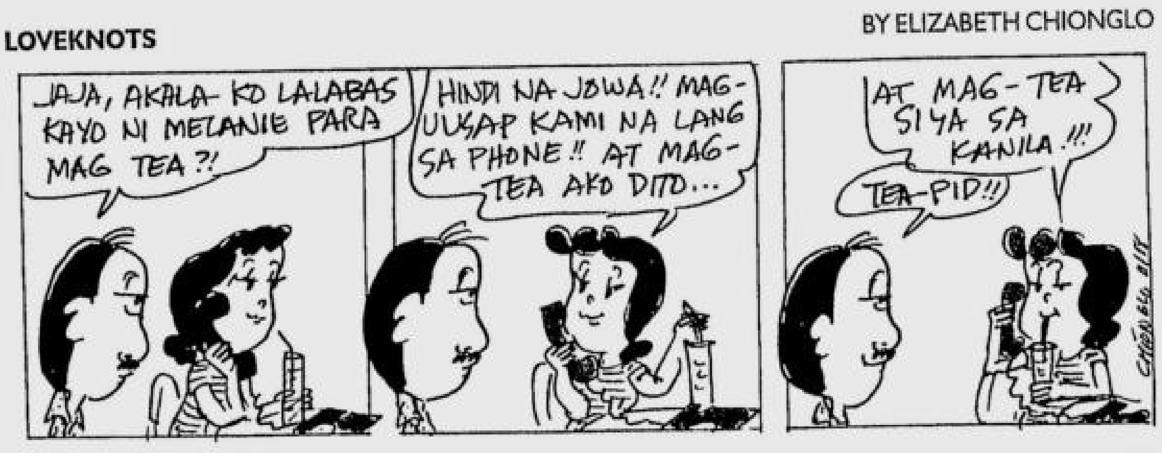
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


TSK! NAKAKAASAR 'YUN AH! PORKE KA-BIGHA-BIGHANI LANG SYA, INABUSO N'YA NAMAN MAPAGTRIPAN LANG AKO...
HRGH! ANO AKALA N'YA SAKIN?.. "MALE CHAUVINIST PIG" ?! O LARUAN PARA MAPAGTAWANAN? O INOSENTENG PAGTI-TRIPAN? HRRRGH!.. DAPAT E--
UY KYUTIBOYKULOT! PA-C.R. HA? hehe...
AY! SIGE LANG... AHEHE...
AHRGH!

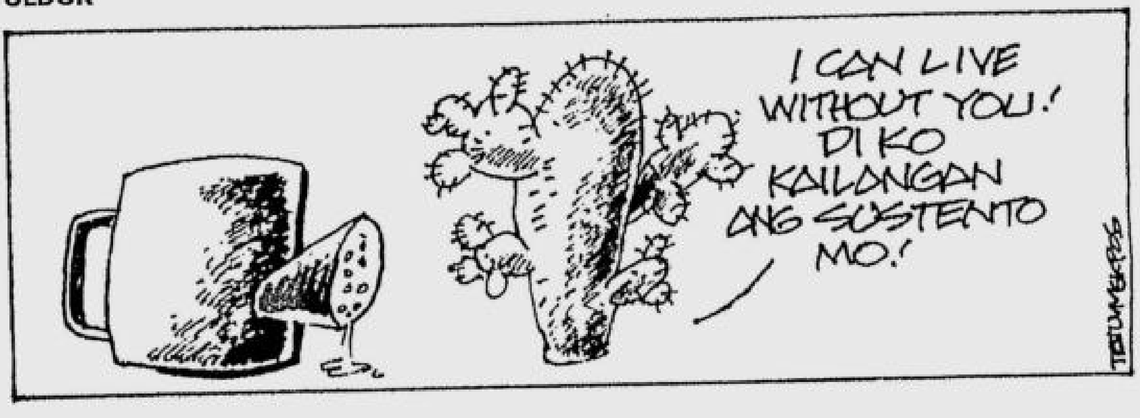
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


JAJA, AKALA KO LALABAS KAYO NI MELANIE PARA MAG TEA ?!
HINDI NA JOWA!! MAG-UUSAP KAMI NA LANG SA PHONE!! AT MAG-TEA AKO DITO...
AT MAG-TEA SIYA SA KANILA !!!
TEA-PID!!

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


I CAN LIVE WITHOUT YOU! DI KO KAILANGAN ANG SUSTENTO MO!

LILLY Pulitzer collection

Happiness is a dress

HAPPINESS IS A LILLY Pulitzer outfit. A Lilly (as a Lilly Pulitzer outfit is fondly called) is a kaleidoscope of Kool-Aid colors—the fashion equivalent of a paper parasol in a daiquiri. It's like wearing the colors of the rainbow all year round.

Lilly prints are so recognizable and so versatile one could wear them anywhere and look and feel absolutely terrific. A Lilly personifies an ease of dressing which at the same time allows you to look crisp and safe. Wearing a Lilly means being comfortable and pretty. It's wildly colored cotton that celebrates life's simplicity and down-to-earthness.

LILLY Pulitzer outfit

Caring About Incontinence

Incontinence is a subject that many find difficult to absorb. Simply put, it is the accidental loss of urine or feces. But for people experiencing incontinence and their caregivers; there is nothing simple about it. The embarrassment caused by urine leakage makes it hard to lead normal lives. It is therefore important for caregivers to know how to care for their loved ones experiencing incontinence.

For Filipinos, giving care, especially for the elderly, is second nature. However, in cases involving incontinence, caregivers have to go the extra mile in helping sufferers deal with this touchy subject.

First, we have to understand that though more common in old people, incontinence can happen to anyone. In a survey conducted by the Asia Pacific Continence Advisory Board in 1998, approximately 15% of Filipinos had experienced an episode of urinary incontinence in their life. It is also important to know that incontinence is not a disease, but rather a symptom of an underlying disease or condition.

There are several factors that can cause urinary incontinence; some factors are relatively simple and temporary while others are more involved and long-term. Urinary tract infections, vaginal infection or irritation, severe constipation, and certain medicines can cause temporary bladder control problems. Once these are treated, the incontinence problem is also solved.

However, there are factors that can cause long-term incontinence such as weak or overactive bladder muscles, an enlarged prostate, disorders of consciousness or cognitive ability such as dementia or Alzheimer's disease and nerve damage such as multiple sclerosis.

The severity of the problem is also varied. Some experience minor leakage while others get more frequent wetness. But no matter how grave the condition is, it is essential for caregivers to help patients deal with their condition in the best way possible.

Second, it is wise to inform a doctor when problems are noticed. Give the appropriate and applicable information related to your love one's condition. Keeping a voiding diary to document the signs and patterns of voids would help the doctor determine the cause of the problem. This will be used to identify the appropriate treatment, depending on what's causing the problem and the type of incontinence.

Third, place yourself in your loved one's situation. Try to understand how he or she feels. Try not to be impatient even in the most testing of situations. Keep in mind that incontinence is embarrassing for the care recipient. Personal hygiene has always been a touchy subject and when someone else takes care of it, it is a challenge to the recipient's integrity.

Lastly, if the incontinence condition is long-term, using absorbent pads is always an option. Selecting the right products will facilitate hygiene care routines both for the user and the caregiver. Be selective. Aim for quality and dignity. There is no reason to accept poorly performing products that affect the quality of life for both the caregivers and their loved ones.

TENA's newest innovation is a testament to this pursuit. The revolutionary Instant Dry Layer absorbs wetness 60% quicker than other pads while its one-way valve locks wetness in at the bottom core, thus giving users unparalleled wetness absorption. The new Instant Dry Layer can be found in TENA Plus (Daytime) and TENA Maxi (Overnight) products.

With 40 years of experience under its belt, TENA is just the right partner when it comes to incontinence care. No wonder it's the no. 1 brand of incontinence care products in the Philippines and the world.

Now isn't that something worth absorbing? For more on incontinence care management, visit www.tena.com.ph

One less problem to absorb.
New Instant Dry Layer
one-way inlet valve
TENA
Adult Diaper
Maxi - Overnight
Plus - Daytime
M 10

TENA Adult Diapers give you superior absorption against your old pad. Its revolutionary New Instant Dry Layer quickly absorbs and distributes urine without traces of clumping, while the one-way inlet valve keeps it locked in. So you can worry about more pressing matters in your life.

TENA
ADULT DIAPERS

SAMPLES ANYONE?
Know us more intimately. For a free sample of TENA Adult Diapers, simply cut out this portion and fax to 809-1230, or send to SCA Hygiene Products Corporation, P.O. Box 103 Ayala Alabang Village, 1799 Muntinlupa City.

Name of User: First Name M.I. Last Name
Sex:
Birth Date: M D Y
Please send my free TENA sample to:
Address:
Zip Code:
Tel. No.:
E-mail Address:
Name of Respondent: First Name M.I. Last Name
Relation to User: ☐ Relative ☐ Professional Caregiver

Please send me a sample pack of:
☐ TENA Plus, Medium (Daytime Care)
☐ TENA Maxi, Medium (Overnight Care)

We value your privacy. Rest assured we keep all data in this coupon confidential.

PDI 11.18.05

Be at the top of the fashion totem pole

TOPSHOP GOTHIC. Black capelet over cream cotton and chiffon blouse with lace

JUMPERS, JACKETS, JODHPURS and cropped jeans are key items in the autumn-winter collection of Topshop and Topman, the UK fashion house.

Topshop women may experiment with the Aviator/Admiralty and Gothic Fairytale lines, which are available in all Topshop stores in the Philippines.

The Beatnik, Tibetan and Decadent styles will soon be availabe locally.

Aviator/Admiralty includes tailored naval/equestrian jackets and knickerbockers with modish twists such as gold trims, brass buttons and piping smartened weathered twill.

Those with hourglass bodies may prefer the Victorianesque and Edwardian Gothic Fairytale styles.

Top picks are medieval neck-accented blouses and midnight-blue morning jackets, fine knitwear and puff-ball taffeta skirts with ruffles or flounces.

In the color palette, Tibetan has shades of red, girlie pinks, mint greens as well as yellow, blue and even dark purples.

Thick knitted Fairisle are layered over a base of neutral, workwear styled denim, while handcrafted appliqués, patches, border prints and vibrantly patterned hats, mittens, trousers and scarves complete the collection.

BOHEMIAN is out, Topshop's Beatnik is in!

The eclectic and elegant Decadent is a miscellaneous mix of opulent, luxurious fabrics.

Topman must-haves include Dustbowl, Country Style and Underground.

Dustbowl is robust, durable clothing. It consists of denims and carpenter trousers, work boots and chambray shirts.

Rock chic is emphasized in Underground, a voguish combination of striped polos, sheer shirts and dark-colored denims in slim silhouette.

The style's mismatching textures and fabrics combine "bohemia" and "landed gentry" and conjures images of country gents.

For formals, men should look into lots of layering, parallel trousers, wool jumpers and cardigans.

Visit Topshop branches in Robinsons Galleria, Robinsons Place Manila, Shangri-La Mall, Glorietta II, Podium, Power Plant Mall and Alabang Town Center. Topman branches are in Robinsons Galleria, Robinsons Place Manila, Podium and Power Plant Mall.

COTTON check shirts and down-filled jackets are key pieces of Topman's Country Store collection.

TOPSHOP AVIATOR-ADMIRALTY. Black cotton asymmetric military-style jacket

CREAM cotton blouse and long necklace

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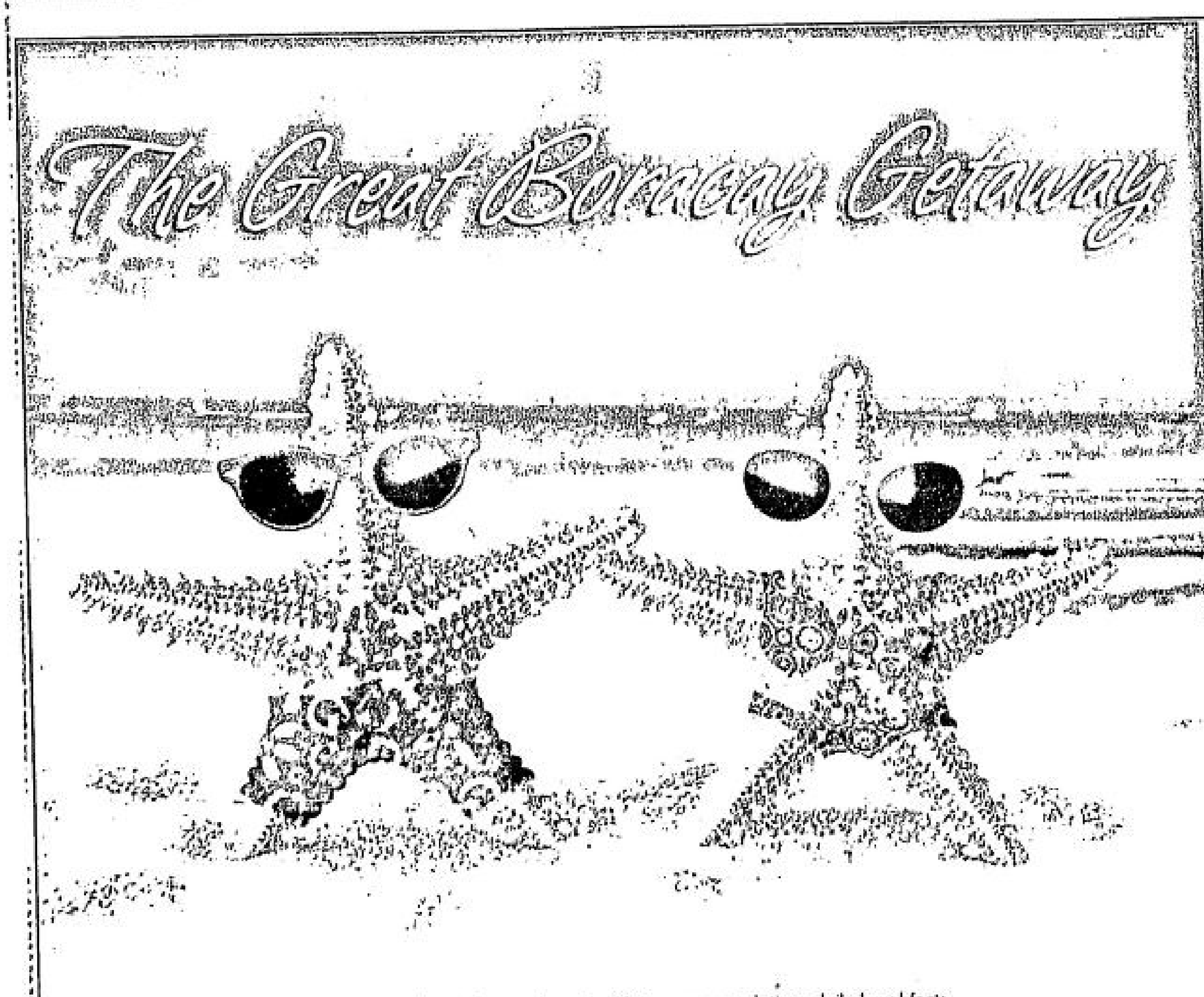

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12 Boracay trips for two* up for grabs starting October 16, 2005.

Here's your chance to finally enjoy the pleasures of this world-famous island getaway.

Every ₱1,000 spending gives you 1 raffle entry.
Apply for an Equitable Travel Card and receive ten (10) bonus raffle entries upon approval. Plus, international transactions made during the promo period give you 3 bonus raffle entries.

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See flyers for details.
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 5639, Series of 2005

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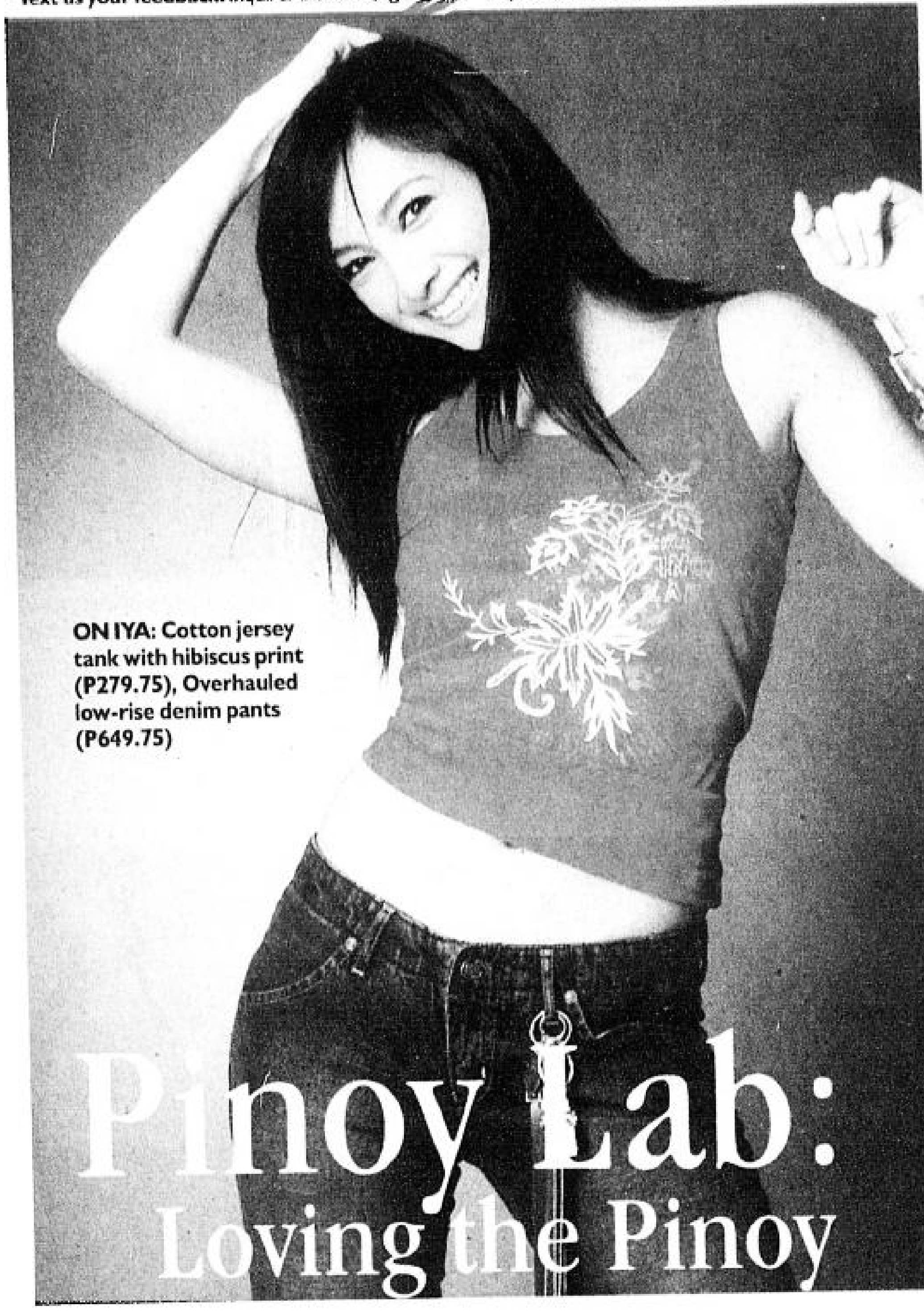


ON IYA: Cotton jersey tank with hibiscus print (P279.75), Overhauled low-rise denim pants (P649.75)

Pinoy Lab: Loving the Pinoy

BURDADO IS A NEW line from Bench Pinoy Lab. Designed by scholar and museum director Inno Manalo, it combines traditional embroidery and contemporary design.

One line of the collection is devoted to the Tree of Life, a motif found in the artistic works of many of the world's ancient civilizations. It usually symbolizes fertility and the continuity of the life force.

In the Philippines, the Tree of Life is found in the banners of the Tausug of Jolo. The designs are cut out from a thick cloth and then appliquéd to a larger piece of fabric.

In the Pinoy lab collection, the Tree of Life is applied to T-shirts for men and women, to bags and even slippers.

Another line was inspired by lacework. In the past, Catholic nuns introduced the making of bobbin lace to many towns in the Philippines. Today handmade lace is made in only two places: Tagudin in Ilocos and Sta. Barbara in Iloilo.

There are also items that take off from motifs actually woven into the cloth but still give the effect of embroidery. The *sinuksok* of Panay is reinterpreted on T-shirts with the patterns blown up larger than usual for a new twist.

An easy favorite is a set of men's shirts with fully buttoned fronts that feature two columns of embroidered roosters and the ubiquitous *bahay kubo*.

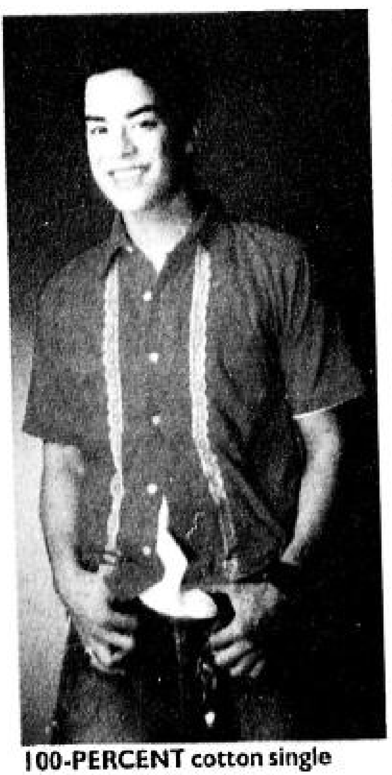
Images and motifs are also derived from the different parts of the archipelago: From Abra and Ilocos in the North to Panay in the Visayas and Jolo in Mindanao.

The national representation is also reflected in Bench Pinoy Lab's new logo. The central image is a *bahay kubo*—an image of home. Surrounding this are patterns from the Tingguian of Abra and the Tausugs of Jolo.

There is also an *anahaw* leaf often seen in Philippine Art Nouveau.

The Bench Pinoy Lab collection is available in selected Bench and Herbench stores and at Pinoy Lab in the Metropolitan Museum. Bench image models Alvin Alfonso and Iya Villania will showcase the collection in Pinoy Lab's new catalogue to be available soon.

ON ALVIN: Cotton-jersey crewneck contrast ringer with Tree of Life print (P329.75), Overhauled relax-fit denim pants (P649.75)



100-PERCENT cotton single jersey Chinese red polo (P379.75), Overhauled relax-fit denim pants (P649.75)

COTTON jersey crewneck tee with print and crochet appliqué (P279.75), Overhauled low-rise denim pants (P649.75)

ETHAN ALLEN
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Per DTI NCR Permit No. A3-804, Series of 2005

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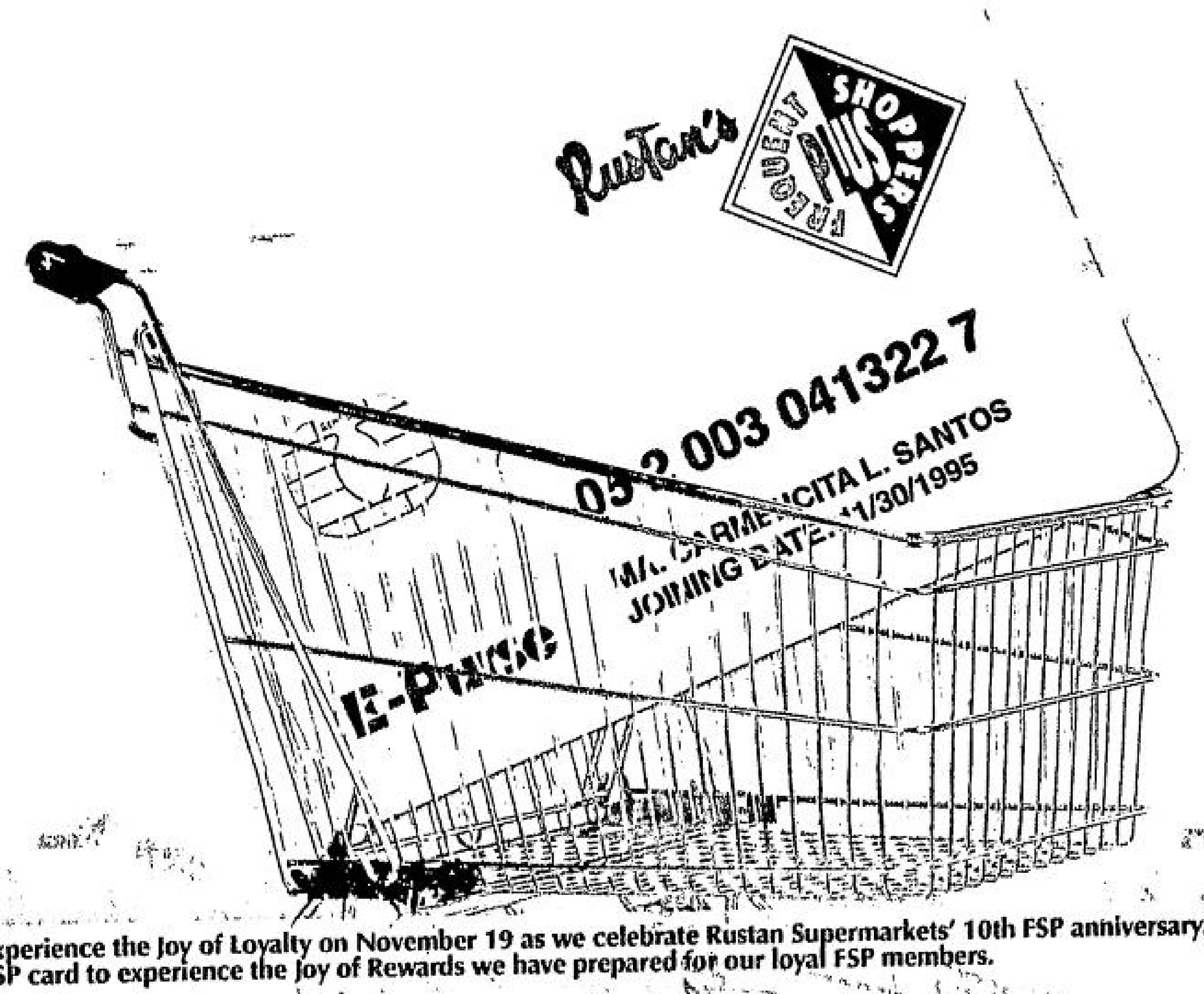
Experience the JOY of Rewards at

Rustan SUPERMARKETS

Join us as we celebrate our 10th FSP Anniversary with a one-day shopping treat for FSP members.
November 19, 2005 (Saturday)
Makati, Rockwell, Shangri-la Plaza, Gateway Mall, Katipunan, Greenbelt, San Antonio, Forbes Park and Magallanes.



Experience the Joy of Loyalty on November 19 as we celebrate Rustan Supermarkets' 10th FSP anniversary. Present your FSP card to experience the Joy of Rewards we have prepared for our loyal FSP members.

- Buy 1 Take 1 specials
- Up to 25% off on selected regular items
- 5% off discount on Traditions Christmas Baskets for November 19 purchases only
- FREE "TASTE" bag with a minimum P1,500.00 single-receipt purchase from our newly opened TASTE section at Rustan's Supermarket FRESH Makati
- FREE Starbucks Hot (tall) beverage (choice of Caffé Latté, Caffé Mocha or Caramel Macchiatto with a minimum P3,000 single-receipt purchase
- FREE Rustan Supermarkets Mini-Shopping Cart for a minimum P5,000 single-receipt purchase
- 20% off discount in all Rustan Supermarkets Food-to-Go outlets
- 20% off discount in all Bon Appetit Patisserie and Café, Yumyum Tree Coffee Shop, Hi-Lo Cafe and Char-Q Restaurant.

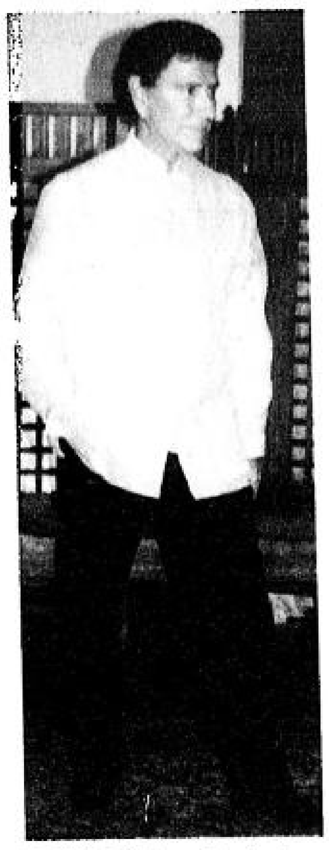
November 19, 2005 will surely be a FSP day unlike any other.

TOP COUTURIER Patis Tesoro and young beauty Rica O. Peña

ILOILO'S First Lady, elegant Rosalie Sarabia Treñas

ABS-CBN director/editor Oskie Nava in *malong* and embroidered barong

NEGRENSE beauty queen, head-turner Amy Gustilo-Lopez

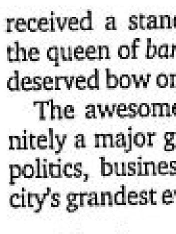

MAURICE Arcache (as in *moi*) in an exquisite barong by Patis T., natch

SOUTHERN beauty, former Sen. Nikki Coseteng

BACOLOD'S pride, globe-trotting Edouard Garcia in barong and *malong*

Salud in Iloilo; Satya's universal harmony

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH



Maurice Arcache

Photos by **Alex Van Hagen** using **Kodak** EasyShare system

SUGAR barons and baroness. Gina Espinosa; Jose Mari Chan and wife, beautiful Mary Ann Ansalado C.; Judgee L. Peña and Sarah Opulencia P.; Manille's working heiress Marivic Vasquez; and Southern lawyer Joe Mari Treñas

THE SUPERB flamenco performance receives a standing ovation.

LA MUY LEAL Y NOBLE CIUDAD DE Iloilo was super proud to host the fantastic Fil-Hispanic Friendship Day!

This grand nationwide celebration is held every year in different areas of the archipelago that played an important role in the history of the Spanish period in our history, *palanggas*.

In case you don't know, Iloilo City bears the singular distinction of being the last capital of Spain in Asia, when in 1898, after the fall of Manille to the Americans, Gen. **Diego de los Rios** was appointed Spanish governor general of the Philippines, with Iloilo as the temporary capital.

During that hectic week I was there, the Spanish Embassy with the Spanish Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Instituto de Cervantes plus the city and provincial governments of Iloilo organized the Friendship Week there.

Heading the pack was socialite **Ellen Jison Golez**, who headed the organizing committee.

Among the well-attended events were the "Feria Español," a trade fair of Spanish consumer products, at the Hotel del Rio (all the goods were sold out faster than you could bat an eyelash); "Heritage Tour," featuring Iloilo's heritage houses, conducted by the Nelly Garden Tours and Services; "Spanish Cooking Workshop" at La Fiesta Hotel, and "Noche de Gala," featuring the Central Flamenco, which the audience gave a standing ovation.

President **Macapagal-Arroyo**, jetted in to attend the festival.

"Tertulia y Tapas!" was a fab dinner-fashion show featuring the Spanish-inspired Filipino gowns by famous fashion designer **Patis Tesoro** and Iloilo's pride, **Jaki Peñalosa**. The night was a showcase of food, gorgeous fashion and the city's beautiful faces, *palanggas*.

Top chefs of the renowned Sarabia Manor Hotel and Convention Center prepared the food.

Peñalosa displayed her trademark expertise on embroidery and beadwork. Professional models sashayed her superb collection.

Tesoro's magnificent collection was divided into eight portions, modeled by 40 movers and shakers of Iloilo ultra *sociedad*.

Iloilo City Councilor **Juliene Baronda** and former Miss Caltex **Gladys Baban Cordero** wore terno gowns. Others who did the catwalk were educator **Prima Buckley** and **Katherine Rojo**; socialite **Melinda Tinsay**; Iloilo Convention Bureau president **Terry Sarabia**; ABS-CBN regional marketing manager **Desiree D. Bretaña**, and socialite **Mary Ann Ansaldo Chan**. Iloilo society's grand dame, socialite Doña **Florencia Chan**, got generous applause as she walked down the ramp.

Socialite **Marirose Cacho** and Iloilo provincial executive assistant **Tweetee Tupas** sashayed in their gorgeous 18th-century Maria Claras with *panuelo*.

Modeling the barong creations were Iloilo City Councilor Jed Patrick Mabilog; tall and good-looking cousins Alejandro and Christopher Sarabia; Bacolod City's society high priest, **Edouard Garcia** , and *moi*.

Donning the Carnival King and Queen-inspired outfits were popular super couple **Judgee Lopez Peña** and **Sara Opolencia Peña**, and their daughters, **Rita** and **Riza Peña**. Others also in the outfits were accessories designer **Allana Lopez-Montelibano** and others who all received a standing ovation, especially when the queen of *baro't saya*, Tesoro, took her well-deserved bow on stage.

The awesome "Tertulia y Tapas!" was definitely a major gathering of who's who in Iloilo politics, business, art and fashion! It was the city's grandest event of the year.

OPENING the two-day Fil-Hispanic Friendship Festival: Mayor Jerry Treñas (right); Rafael Castellanos, vice president of the Spanish Chamber of Commerce; former Agriculture Secretary Rene Villa, and Don Jose Miguel Cortez, Spanish Embassy commercial councelor

STATUESQUE Southern beauty Aurora Lapuz-Sagaz, wife of the Spanish ambassador

WORLD-TRAVELER Ana Pamplona

OLD-WEALTH socialite Ellen Jison-Golez and brilliant Rita O. Peña

SUSIE Facultad, dancing queen Susan Wang, Rosalie Treñas, and gorgeous Dr. Terry Sarabia

Berklee band

Satya is an eclectic band of musicians who combine fab smooth jazz, funk and R&B, with spiritual influences, *palanggas*.

Their diverse backgrounds create original music that they hope will bring the message of tolerance, peace, and mutual respect.

With their energy, they wish to spur initiative and compassion among the youth. They like to build bridges across various styles of music and different groups of people.

Satya is a group without a specific nationality; it is a group of many identities.

The members got together when they were studying at the Berklee School of Music in Boston, Massachusetts.

Satya is Sanskrit for "truth and honesty."

Satya is composed of Spaniard **Juan Galiardo** (piano and keyboards); Filipino Marcos Sainz, son of beauty queen **Charina Zaragoza** (piano and keyboards); Brazilian Miguel **Gandelman** (tenor and soprano sax); American **Nadine Ford** (vocals); Russian **Alexei Gordeev** (alto sax and flute); Spaniard **Voro Garcia** (trumpet); Briton **Tiago Coimbra** (bass), and **American Jeriel Johnson** (drums).

This one-of-a-kind group is managed by brilliant Harvard and Columbia graduate, art connoisseur **Patrick Reyno**, no less, *palanggas*. Also a director of the Manila Jockey Club, Reyno supports the arts and believes in Satya's music, superbly composed by Sainz and Galiardo.

Their awesome concert at the Westin Philippine Plaza got on a roll with cocktails and a great performance by the talented Philippine Youth Symphonic Band (PYSB), which is managed by **Irene Marcos Araneta**.

(Proceeds of the concert were to benefit the musical education of the PYSB's over 50 gifted members.)

The Westin's Papat Palanta prepared a fantastic buffet of international selections, while the show was brilliantly directed by **Robbie Carmona**.

During their visit, Satya performed at the Jewelmer Jazz Festival, UST Conservatory of Music, Embassy Club and at a *trés* prive bash at the sprawling Reyno residence in South Forbes where they obliged many encores, dahlings.

Yes, *palanggas*, Satya was total entertainment at its best.

ILOILO's cool, young social set. Sisters with the four Bs Rita and Risa O. Peña, good-looking eligible bachelor Oskie Nava, and Christopher Sarabia

SULTRY jazz singer Nadine Ford

BEAUTIFUL faces, beautiful people. Tong Mañalac and wife Mabel Morales M., Vicky Morales and husband King Reyno

THERE for a good cause. Lizette Cojuangco, Mia Borromeo and Karen Santos

COOL Bela Lipat loves Satya

JUST PALS. Xen Gladstone and Circulo resto's main gal Malu Gamboa

MARCOS Z. SAINZ of the fav Satya band

"WE ARE in love." Yoohoo and Ying Villanueva

KAI Prieto, TV's RJ Ledesma, good-looker Raj Moreno

PATRICK Reyno; Irene Marcos Araneta with Singapore-based Illa Albert Dempsey

Shopping surprises

SHOP AT ANY BRANCH OF LULU CASTAGNETTE and avail yourself of various shopping treats. Use your HSBC Credit Card and get a free pack of three makeup pens for a P6,000 minimum purchase until Nov. 30. For a minimum purchase of P2,000, HSBC cardholders can avail themselves of zero-percent interest with three months repayment terms until April 15, 2006. Customers who reach an accumulated purchase of P30,000 in a year gets a Lulu Castagnette Membership/Discount Card. The card entitles customers to special store promotions and discounts all year round. Lulu Castagnette, a French brand, is known for its distinctive Teddy Bear insignia. It offers a complete line of apparel which includes hip denims and comfy tees, casual separates, stylish knitwear, sexy lingerie, colorful beachwear and fabulous accessories, such as bags, watches, cosmetics and fragrances. Lulu Castagnette has branches at 2/L Glorietta 4, 2/L SM Megamall and Rustan's U Floor at Alabang Town Center.

THE ZONTA Club of Manila I will hold its annual international bazaar on Nov. 20 at the Hotel Intercontinental Ballroom. The proceeds will benefit the Gawad Kalinga project under the poverty-reduction project of Zonta Manila I. It held its first bazaar on Nov. 13. Call Gina at 6377926 or Teena at 9280512. Present during the groundbreaking of Gawad Kalinga Zonta Village in December 2004 were Pacita Zara, Fely Umandap, Lolit Sy, Lt. Gov. Virma Vergel de Dios, area director Baby Perez-Sison, VP Nida Lopez, president Menchu Pascual, international director Dandy Gomez, Tonie Lingad and Sol Dizon.

GOINGS ON

FASHION GALA. Shangri-La Plaza will unveil the fashion statement for the holiday season via a fashion gala dubbed as "Black, White... and Pink for the Holidays" at the mall's Grand Atrium tonight at 7. Call the Shangri-La Plaza Marketing at 6337851 or log on to www.shangrila-plaza.com.

SALE. Rockwell Power Plant Mall will hold a mall-wide sale, Nov. 18-20. Customers can avail of up to 70-percent discounts on selected items.

SALE. The World of Feng Shui Boutique, the Philippine franchise of Lilian Too's World of Feng Shui in Malaysia, celebrates its first anniversary today with a month-long sale at its main store at the G/F of the Podium Mall, 18 ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City, and at the newly opened branch at the LG/F of SM City in Cebu City. Feng shui enthusiasts can avail of special discounts on selected items such as feng shui enhancers, art works, décors, figurines, jewelry, instruments, books and magazines. New arrivals like the 2006 World of Feng Shui Almanac, a must-have for feng shui specialists and neophytes alike, will also be available. Call 9106000, 9147112, 9147888 (The Podium), 2134088, and 0915-8241937 (SM City, Cebu). Log on to www.wofs.com.

NATIONAL WEEK. Wyeth Progifted Formulas will hold the annual celebration of the National Week for the Gifted with this year's theme "Behind every Gifted Child are Nurturing Parents," Nov. 20-26. One of the highlights is a mall event, consisting of an exhibit, a parents' lounge and a talk show, that pay tribute to parents at SM Makati on Nov. 19-20. The mall exhibit will showcase the achievements of eight ProGifted children and the role of their parents in nurturing their gifts. A special culminating event is set on Nov. 27 at the Crowne Plaza. Coinciding with the celebration is the 8th annual convention at the Columbus Function Room, 42/F Discovery Suites, Ortigas, Pasig City.

BOOK WEEK. In celebration of the 71st anniversary of National Book Week, Nov. 24-30, the Philippine Librarians Association, Inc., (PLAI) and The National Library (TNL) presents "Kultura ng Pagbabasa'y Palaganapin, Aklat at Aklatan Ating Pagyamanin" (Developing the Culture of Reading Through Books and Libraries). Activities on Nov. 24 include a fun walk around Rizal Park, Book Character Parade, Holy Mass and exhibit opening. Opening ceremonies will be held at the TNL Auditorium with National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) chair Ambeth M. Ocampo as keynote speaker. Awarding of winners for the essay-writing and storytelling contests is also set. Presentation of the 2005 PLAI Awardees will cap the NBW celebration. The awardees are Belen M. Vibar, Milagros S. Ong, Teresita C. Moran, Loreto Serina, Miguel Cobaria and Fe Abeleda-Robles.

DEMO. Practicing cosmetic surgeons and plastic surgeons are invited to attend a live demonstration on liposuction, lipoplasty and mesotherapy on Nov. 26 at Delos Santos Medical Center. Call 7230041.

XMAS PARTY. Class 1967 of the Masbate High School (MHS), now Masbate National Comprehensive High School, of Masbate, Masbate, will have a Christmas party on Dec. 10. Venue of the affair, to be hosted by Senior Supt. Leo Garra, chief of police of Caloocan City, will be announced later. Call Evelyn Martires Udaundo at 4543934 or call/text 0928-3561480.

HOMECOMING. The Ateneo High School Batch 1980 will hold its grand alumni homecoming, Nov. 26-Dec. 3. Dubbed "Labora Dure, Lude Dure (Latin for "Work hard, play hard") will kick-off with the traditional Rizal monument wreath-laying by the jubilarian batches: Ateneo Grade School, High School and College of 1955, 1965, 1980 and 1995. The event will be held at the Loyola Heights campus in Diliman, QC. Call 9266067/6046.

INTEREST DEALS. Use your Diners Club or Security Bank Mastercard at any AVSurfer, Avid Sony Shop or Avid Best Brands outlets and get zero-percent interest deals on select electronic items until Nov. 30. Call 8431541 loc. 703.

FAIR. Festival Supermall and the Department of Trade and Industry Regional Office of La Union present a showcase of the province native products and delicacies. La Union Fair, which will be held at the Festival Supermall's Carousel Court, Nov. 18-30, will feature antique furniture and unique furnishings for the home, holiday decorations, cut flowers and ornamental plants, loom-woven products, processed food and the native "Super Kalan." Call Festival Supermall customer service at 8503514. Festival Supermall is located at the Filinvest Corporate City, Alabang, Muntinlupa.

SPECIAL OFFER. Until Nov. 30, HBC's SanSan Cosmetics, the makeup with vitamins, is offering cosmetic products at budget prices. Customers who reach an accumulated purchase of P400 worth of SanSan "Celebrity Look" colors gets a limited glam pouch for free. Call 9843288/5555 loc. 228, or 0918-9215520.

New York Collectiones
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Weekdays 10:am to 8:pm Weekend 10:am to 9:pm
MIDNIGHT MADNESS SALE 70%
Blouses Burberry *Buy one take one* P299.99
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Versace, Callaway, Mario Armani.(T-Shirt),Gucci, Versace, Christian Dior, Mont Blanc(Belt)Versace, Burberry,Ferragamo, Coach Wallets (ladies and men). Versace, Gucci, Cartier Imported Sunglasses,Imported Blouses. P599.99
Versace, YSL Pierre Cardin, Mario Armani, Valentino(Neckties) P399.99
Mario Armani (Pants)Hermes, Tods, Gucci Imported Bags P999.99
[illegible]
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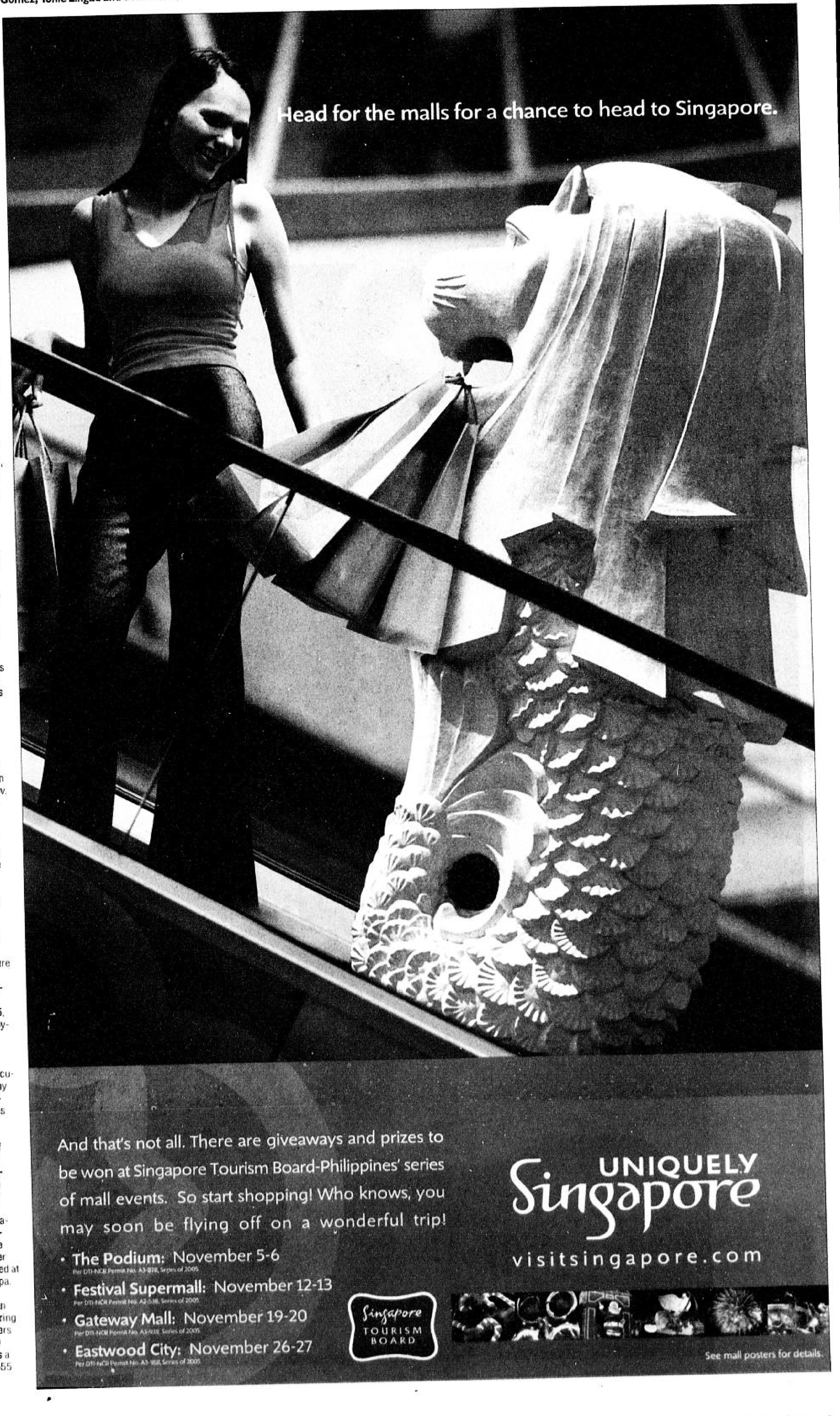

Head for the malls for a chance to head to Singapore.

And that's not all. There are giveaways and prizes to be won at Singapore Tourism Board-Philippines' series of mall events. So start shopping! Who knows, you may soon be flying off on a wonderful trip!

- **The Podium:** November 5-6
- **Festival Supermall:** November 12-13
- **Gateway Mall:** November 19-20
- **Eastwood City:** November 26-27

UNIQUELY Singapore
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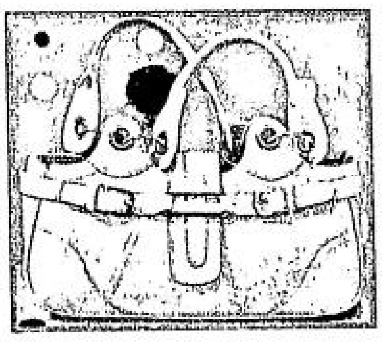
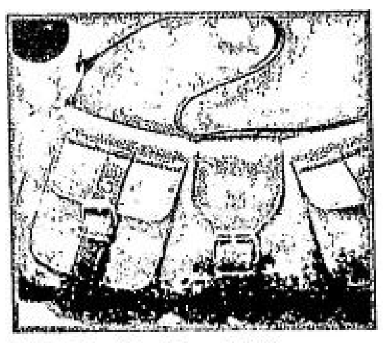
See mall posters for details.

THE LAUNCH. (From left) Enchong Formoso, Jackie Rice, Celia Formoso, Sen. Manny Villar and Paolo Villar

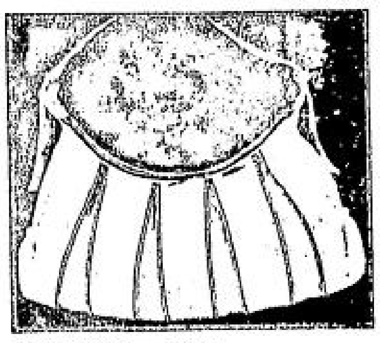
LINDSAY Studded Bag, P639



SOFIE Handbag, P875



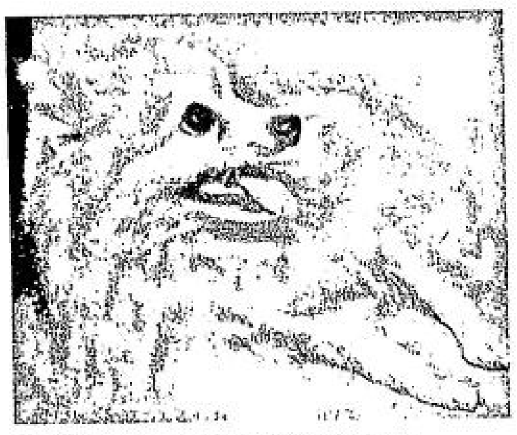
KIM Shoulder Bag, P629



AUBREY Bag, P999

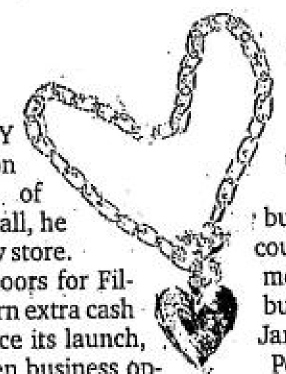
A girl's best friend

Chelsea, a direct sales company named after an adorable Pomeranian, has a lot to offer both dealers and buyers



CHELSEA the adorable Pomeranian

By Pam Pastor



WHEN SEN. MANNY Villar cut the ribbon at the launch of Chelsea Direct Sales in Starmall, he did more than just open a new store.

The launch also opened doors for Filipinos looking for a way to earn extra cash during these hard times. Since its launch, Chelsea Direct Sales has given business opportunities to over 9,500 dealers in the country, majority of them women.

Ma. Celia Formoso, managing director of Chelsea, says, "We actually started as a supplier for other direct sales companies." But she and other like-minded people decided to start their own corporation. "Chelsea was put up by people who have been in the business for a long time now."

With experienced and dedicated individuals in the company, it's no wonder the speed of Chelsea's growth has been remarkable. Its main headquarters is in Starmall, a strategic location for the company.

Right now, Chelsea has 70 business centers around the country. It also intends to open more branches in Caloocan, Cebu, Davao, Naga and Alabang by January 2006.

People interested in this opportunity can become dealers by purchasing a business kit for P250. The kit includes a company brochure, registration forms, business cards, flyers, order forms, a Chelsea bag and a "magalog" (Chelsea's catalog that looks more like a magazine than a catalog). A new catalog is released every three months.

The current cover features Jackie Rice, Chelsea's 15-year-old image model, and Chelsea, the adorable Pomeranian the company was named after (Thus the tagline "A girl's best friend").

The fresh-faced Rice was chosen after a go-see of talents from four different agencies. In the "magalog," she models the different products Chelsea offers. There are bags, footwear, watches, jewelry and other accessories.

Notable ones include the Basket Weave Watch (P999), the Lindsay Studded Bag (P639), Claire Shoulder Bag (P799), the Two-Tone Filigree Shooting Stars Necklace and Bracelet gift set (P399), Time Lock Watch gift set (P1,295), the Promise Necklace (P285), the Cute Chick Bracelet and Earring gift set (P399) and the Four Seasons Gift Set Jewelry Collection.

Aside from fashion items, there are also sports items (badminton rackets, badminton bags, rubber shoes, basketball, volleyball and soccer balls) and products for the home. Parents with infants will appreciate items for babies which include feeding sets, training cups and baby bags.

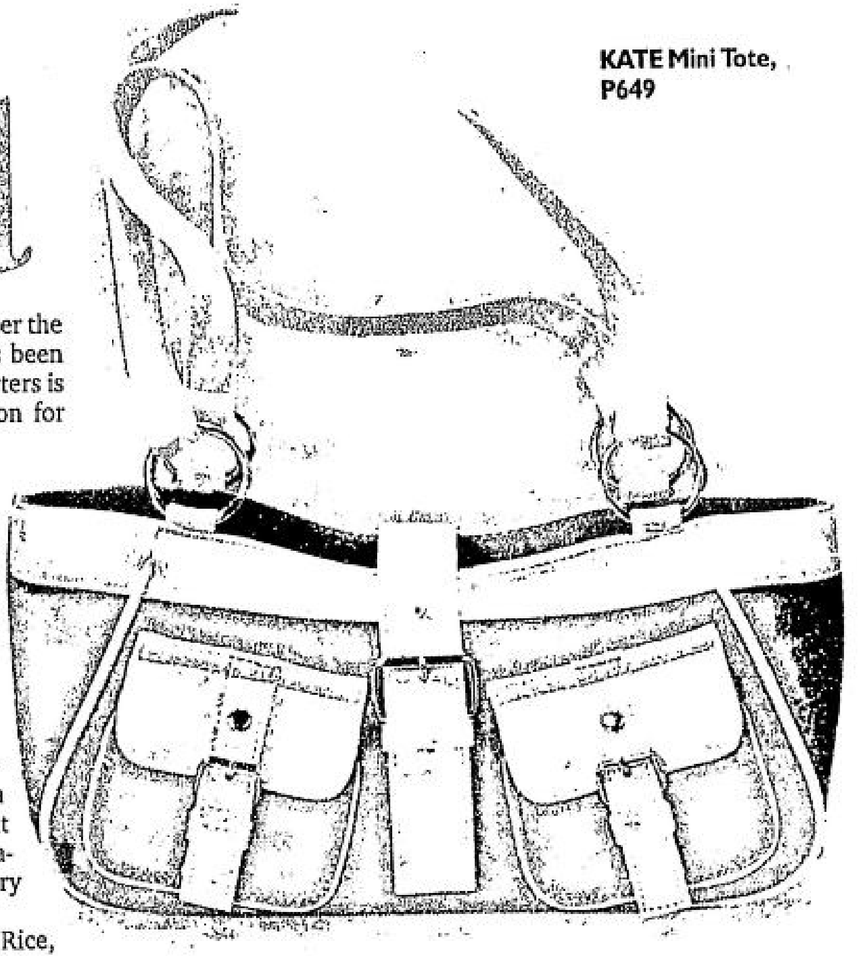
There are gift items for men (pocket measuring tape, grooming set, magnetic screwdriver with flashlight) and women (makeup kit, pore cleaner, facial massager), as well as products for couples who like their things to match (aviator shades, interchangeable watches and wallets).

Formoso says 10 percent of the products are made locally while 90 percent are imported.

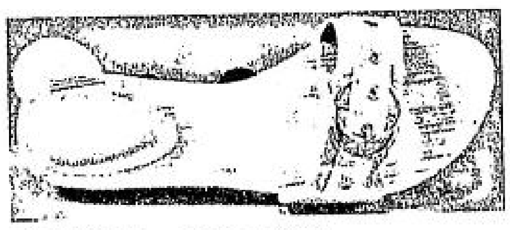
Early next year, Chelsea will also be launching its personal skin care line.

Whether you're a dealer or a buyer, Chelsea has a lot to offer. They don't call the brand a girl's best friend for nothing.

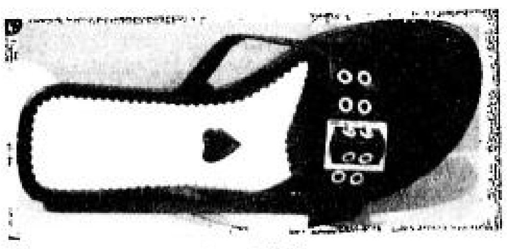
Visit Unit 3114 to 3121, 3/L, Starmall Edsa cor. Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong City. Call 7260468.



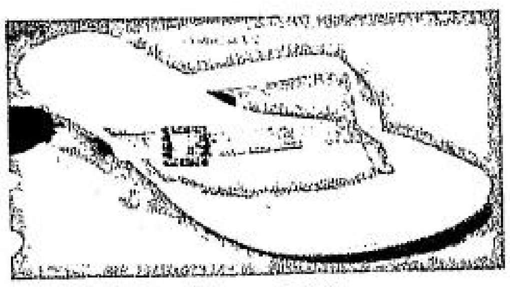
KATE Mini Tote, P649



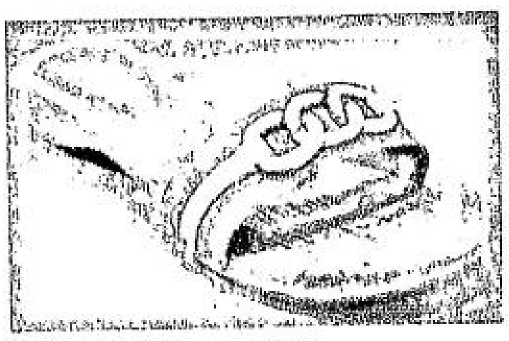
CHELSEA Bone Slides, P799



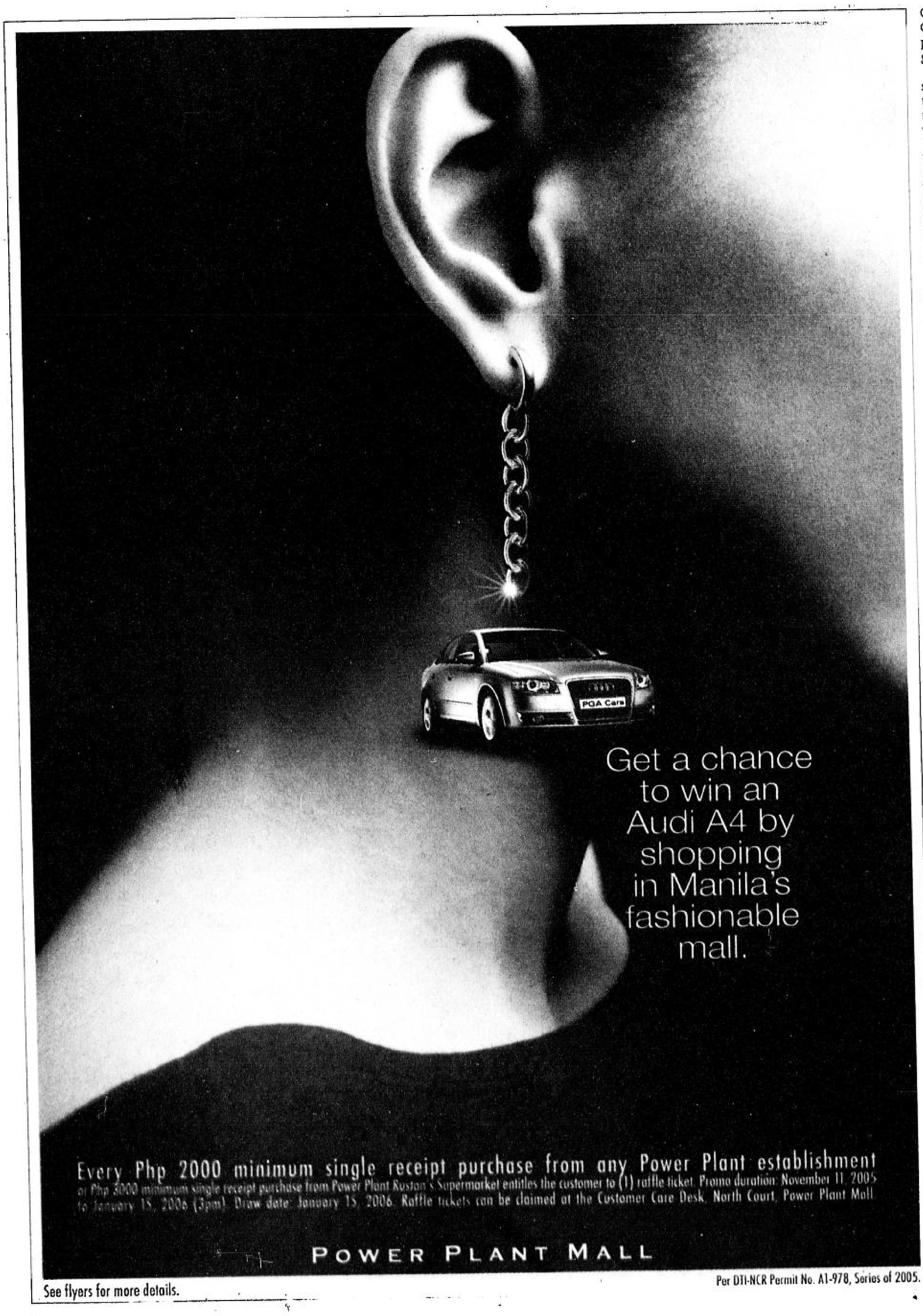
LINDSAY City Slides, P499



ASHLEY Dainty Thongs, P499



CHELSEA Aqua Slides, P799



PQA Cars
Get a chance to win an Audi A4 by shopping in Manila's fashionable mall.

Every Php 2000 minimum single receipt purchase from any Power Plant establishment or Php 3000 minimum single receipt purchase from Power Plant Rustan's Supermarket entitles the customer to (1) raffle ticket. Promo duration: November 11, 2005 to January 15, 2006 (3pm). Draw date: January 15, 2006. Raffle tickets can be claimed at the Customer Care Desk, North Court, Power Plant Mall.

POWER PLANT MALL

See flyers for more details.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A1-978, Series of 2005.

LIFESTYLE
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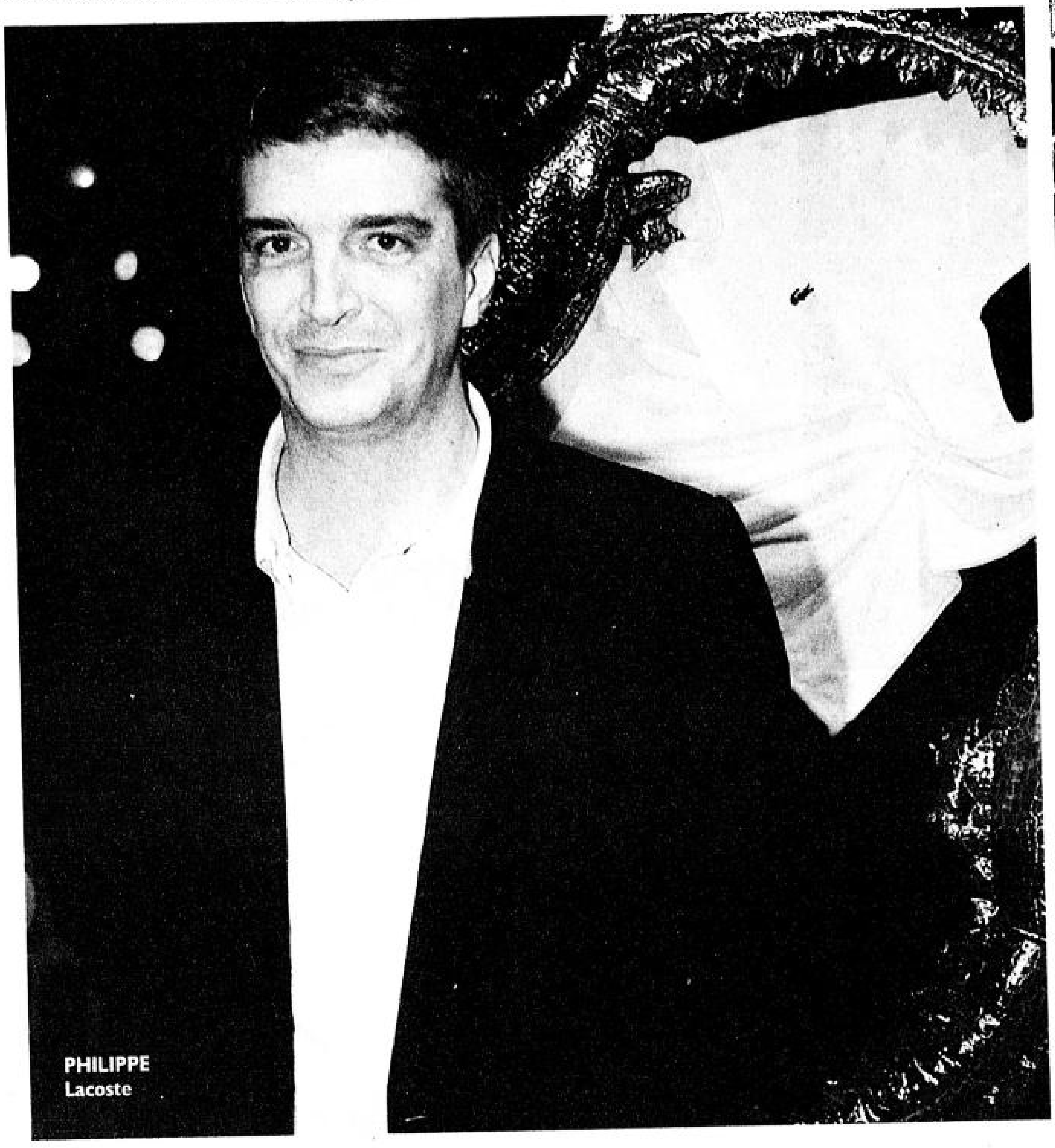


PHILIPPE
Lacoste

Not later but now, alligator

By Cheche V. Moral

Lacoste has updated its look and repackaged its name as a lifestyle brand

GIVEN THE CHANGES Lacoste has gone through the past few years and its current success worldwide, the founder's grandson feels the brand has so secured its position that it no longer matters if the preppy trend isn't here to stay.

"If this trend goes down, it will not be really detrimental for us," Philippe Lacoste, Lacoste SA's director for external relations, said. "It will hurt those brands whose polo shirts aren't legitimate. Our polo shirts are iconic."

His pronouncement would've been unheard of in the past decade when Lacoste wasn't exactly among the brands up there epitomizing cool fashion.

For a time, in fact, Lacoste's polo shirts had been sold on the cheap in Wal-Mart outlets in the United States that the Lacoste family had to buy back its US rights and pulled the brand from the US market.

Even in the Philippines where it remained one of the most recognized clothing brands for the past three decades, wearing a Lacoste polo in the '90s wasn't the embodiment of hip—a far cry from how it was in the preppy '80s era.

That all changed in the recent years in the resurgence of most everything retro, the preppy trend included. Add to that the new direction of sports brands turning into fashion and Lacoste was back in the game.

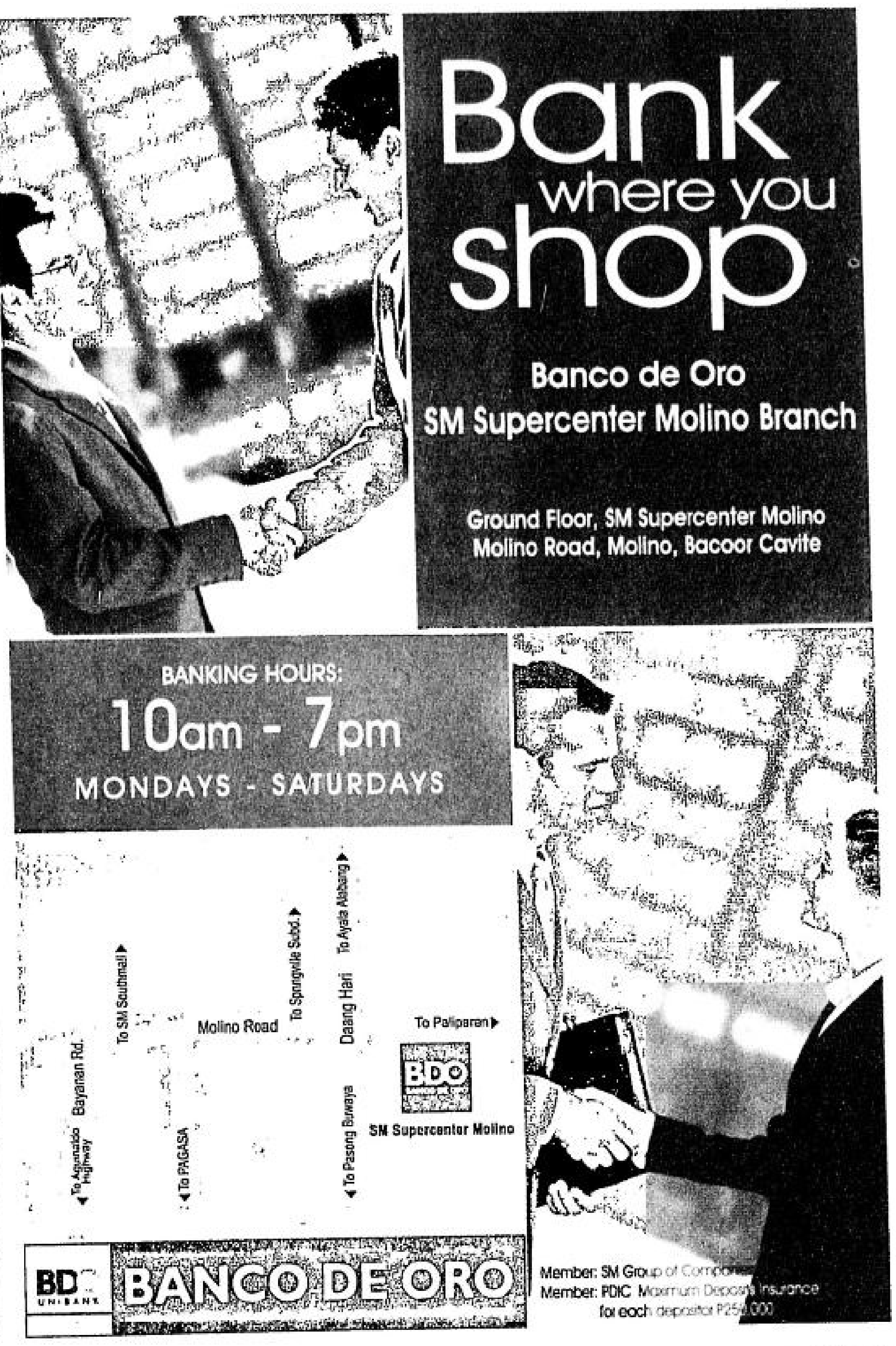
Natural evolution

"It was a natural evolution for us," Lacoste said, who was in Manila to attend the brand's fundraiser called 12.12 Project. "If we had done this 10 years ago it wouldn't have worked because people didn't look at sports and fashion this way."

It must be recalled that Lacoste was initially a sports brand owing to the polo shirt, called 12.12, created by Philippe's grandfather, René, who was a tennis champion in the 1920s. It is said that René felt hampered by the starched long-sleeved shirts used by tennis players at the time that he went on to develop the short-sleeved cotton mesh polo shirt we know today. René added his emblem on the shirt's chest, the green alligator, which signified his intensity on the tennis court.

Today, Lacoste has made a strong comeback as a lifestyle store selling not just apparel but also leather goods, bags, footwear, eyewear, fragrances. It has opened new concept stores

NOT LATER/ 12



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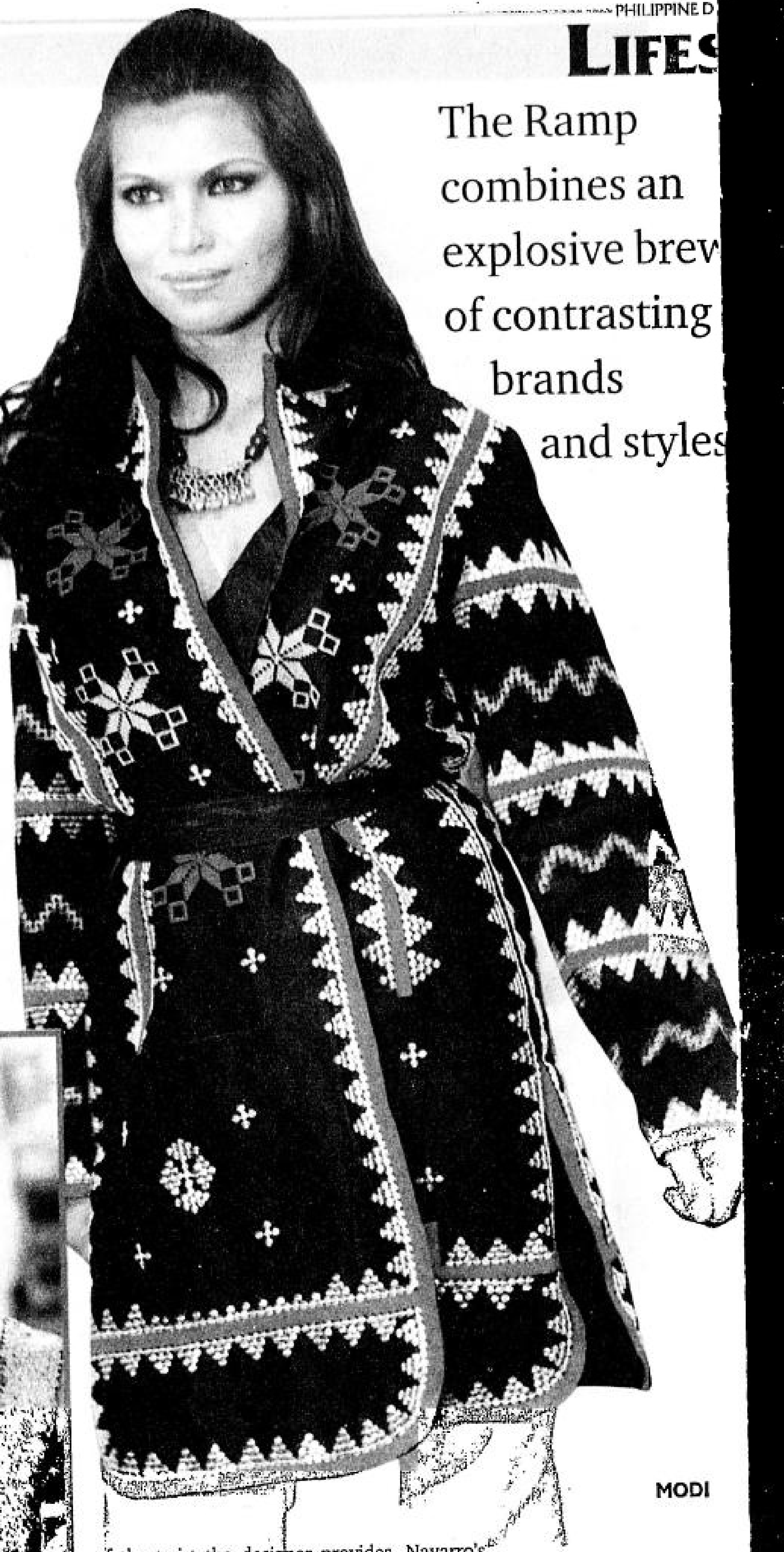


The Ramp
combines an
explosive brew
of contrasting
brands
and styles

MODI

Crossing the boundaries of fashion

By Allison W. Lopez

THIS DEPARTMENT STORE HAS fashion shows every day.

Shoppers of Crossings Department Store in Edsa can now look and feel like real models after romping off with unique ready-to-wear pieces by local designers whose lines are carried by the town's newest fashion hub, The Ramp.

The Ramp, which opened recently with a fashion show, is a 300-sq m section which hosts 15 brands, ranging from the established to the exclusive, up-and-coming labels created by designers to cater to every whim.

"We wanted a fashion space to go to where it's fun to shop," says Xandra Ramos, Crossings' general manager. "We really wanted to provide something for the discerning shoppers. Nowadays, we don't go head-to-toe in one brand."

It took a lot of work but Ramos and her merchandising team were able to convince designers Tina Navarro, Puey Quiñones, Richie Ortega, Trisha Santos, Hywell Angeles and Gayle and Gene Gozum to make their own RTW labels for Crossings. To complete the mix, Ramos chose other well-known brands to create this interesting mélange of styles at The Ramp.

"Each brand would serve a different lifestyle," says Ramos, who takes off from her retail experience in the ladies' apparel division of US giant superstore Wal-Mart.

WILDFLOWER

XANDRA Ramos

Laid-back

The laid-back, bohemian look, for example, is best illustrated by Gozum's Wildflower label and the US brand, Free People. Wildflower is slightly higher priced than the sisters' other fashion brand, YRYS, and is for a more mature market. There are lace capelets, loose printed pants, stylized denim jackets. Free People, says Ramos, is a brand she's always loved because of its details, such as the sequined tops.

Rocco by Tina Navarro is a classy but sassy take on office wear. "Ilaya (Navarro's other brand) is vintage-inspired while Rocco is more modern," says the designer. Ramos adds that Rocco has higher price points than Ilaya because of the fabric and the lining used.

Rocco is not your usual work clothes because of the twist the designer provides. Navarro's boleros, which she is known for, can be found along with the ubiquitous "long shorts" in a variety of fabrics. "It's feminine-meets-masculine," Navarro says.

Tant Pour Elle, a Hong Kong brand, seems to be its foreign counterpart with the clean lines. There are structured jackets, pants and skirts with muted colors suitable for the corporate jungle. "It's classic but updated, and with good fabric," says Ramos.

Richie Ortega, who also does bridal finery, created United Pop as her RTW line. Beadwork is said to be her touch; it is indeed present in the silk Grecian tops and dresses.

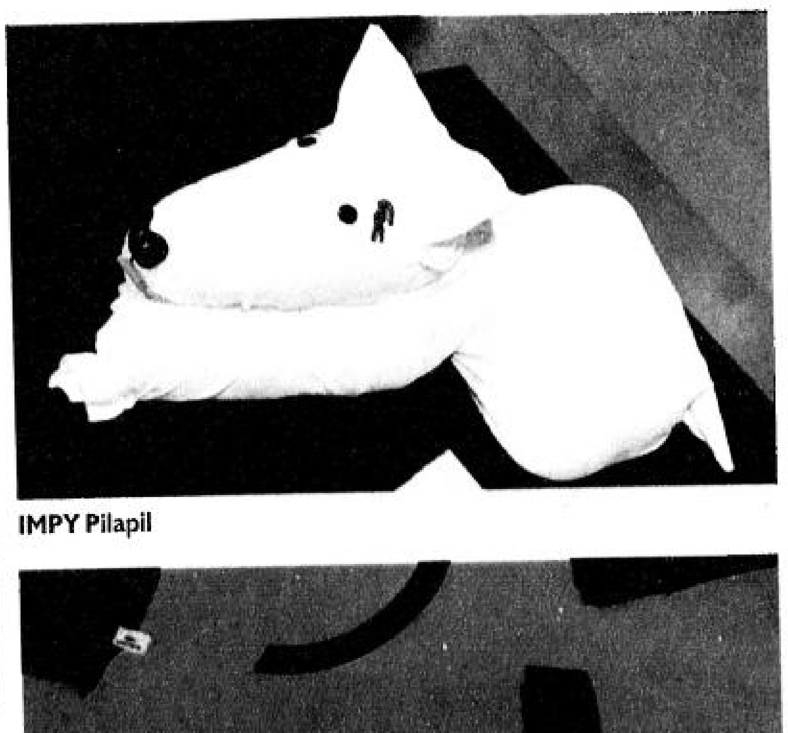
After closing shop in another mall, Trisha Santos seems only too happy to revive her Dressing Room brand through The Ramp. "Being in a big mall, *nako*-compromise *'yung* styles. You have to put what sells. Now it's more specialized, more customized," Santos says. She updates her collection by adding one or two new styles a week, and limits the number of pieces per style.

The designer describes her label as "girly and feminine." Skirts and blouses from Dressing Room have her trademark embroidery. Unlike the old Dressing Room, though, this one caters to an older market and sizes are a little bigger.

Not later but now, alligator

From page I1

JOSIE Natori



IMPY Pilapil

ARTURO Luz

worldwide and even staged fashion shows.

In the Philippines where Lacoste is distributed by Stores Specialists Inc., it has 15 apparel stores and eight accessories boutiques. The country is one of the brand's five biggest markets in Asia.

Consumers seem to be taking well Lacoste's idea of relaxed elegance, its version of French modern classic.

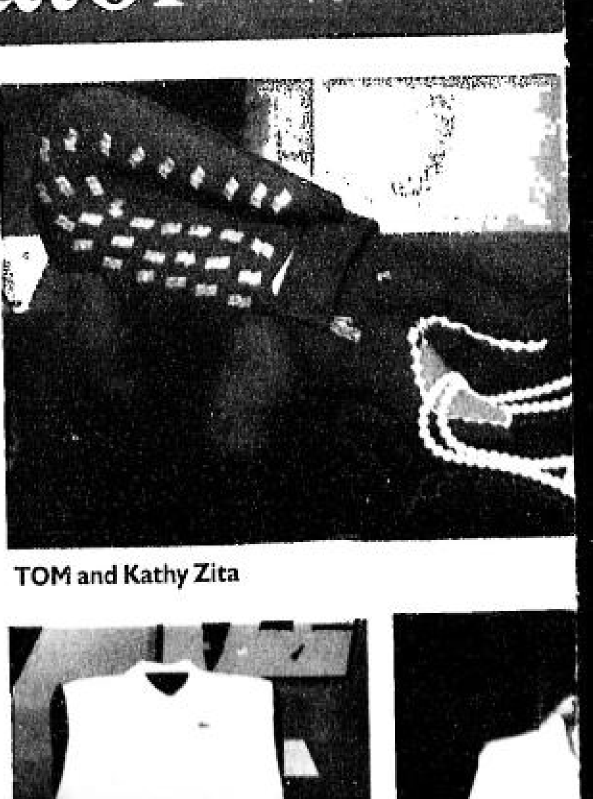
"It's the way people dressed that changed," Lacoste noted. "It's a different type of preppy," he said of the brand's new look. "It's much more sexy, flashier... Preppy was classic in a way. But now we have more acid colors. Preppy wasn't sexy."

Leaner

While Lacoste still largely has a male image, ladies' apparel now accounts for 30-35 percent of Lacoste sales worldwide, what with the popularity of its cropped, stretch cotton piqué polos that come in 25 colors. They also sport a leaner silhouette.

"Ten to 15 years ago, 60-70 percent of our sales were shirts, because we were a polo-shirt brand," Lacoste explained. "Now the shirts only account for 20-25 percent. So you see, preppy is only a small part of it. It's probably true today only because there's a trend for polo shirts.

"I don't see that preppy will stop. Maybe it will evolve, maybe it will change. Maybe it will become something a bit different. I don't think it will be a problem. I think it's more a question of the talent of the designer. We have Christophe Lemaire," he added, referring to the brand's creative director, who helped



TOM and Kathy Zita

LOR Calma

NAPOLEON Ab

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ROCCO ROMY HOMILLADA

FREE People ROMY HOMILLADA

CMGLAM

Who says you can't be dainty at 30?

Urban & Co., though situated almost separately from The Ramp, is also included in the pack. The Singaporean brand has flirty slip dresses, tiny ruffled miniskirts and ribboned cardigans for the ultra-feminine.

Streetwear and corporate

In contrast, the rebel look will be seen in Puey Quiñones' Vado when it opens before year-end. With Commes des Garcon and Yohji Yamamoto as his inspirations, Quiñones mixes streetwear and corporate in his form-fitting cropped jackets and short skirts in twill or wool. "It's something you can wear from the office to your cocktails," says Quiñones of his first RTW line.

Hywell Angeles, meanwhile, has Seven Dials and Porcupine to cater to both the ladies and the gentlemen. Seven Dials has tunics and several other Asian-inspired blouses, bringing exotic to a new level. Porcupine, on the contrary, is not for the "stiff"—it has funky printed polo shirts for daring male species.

At The Ramp, men can find classic but updated choices in Levi's, Dockers and Buffalo Jeans, anchor brands which Ramos chose to attract shoppers who love their old reliables.

Modi, meanwhile, is a collaboration of certain local designers and indigenous tribes in producing ethnic-inspired accessories for fashion and home. Ramos says it's their transition store since it leads to their home section.

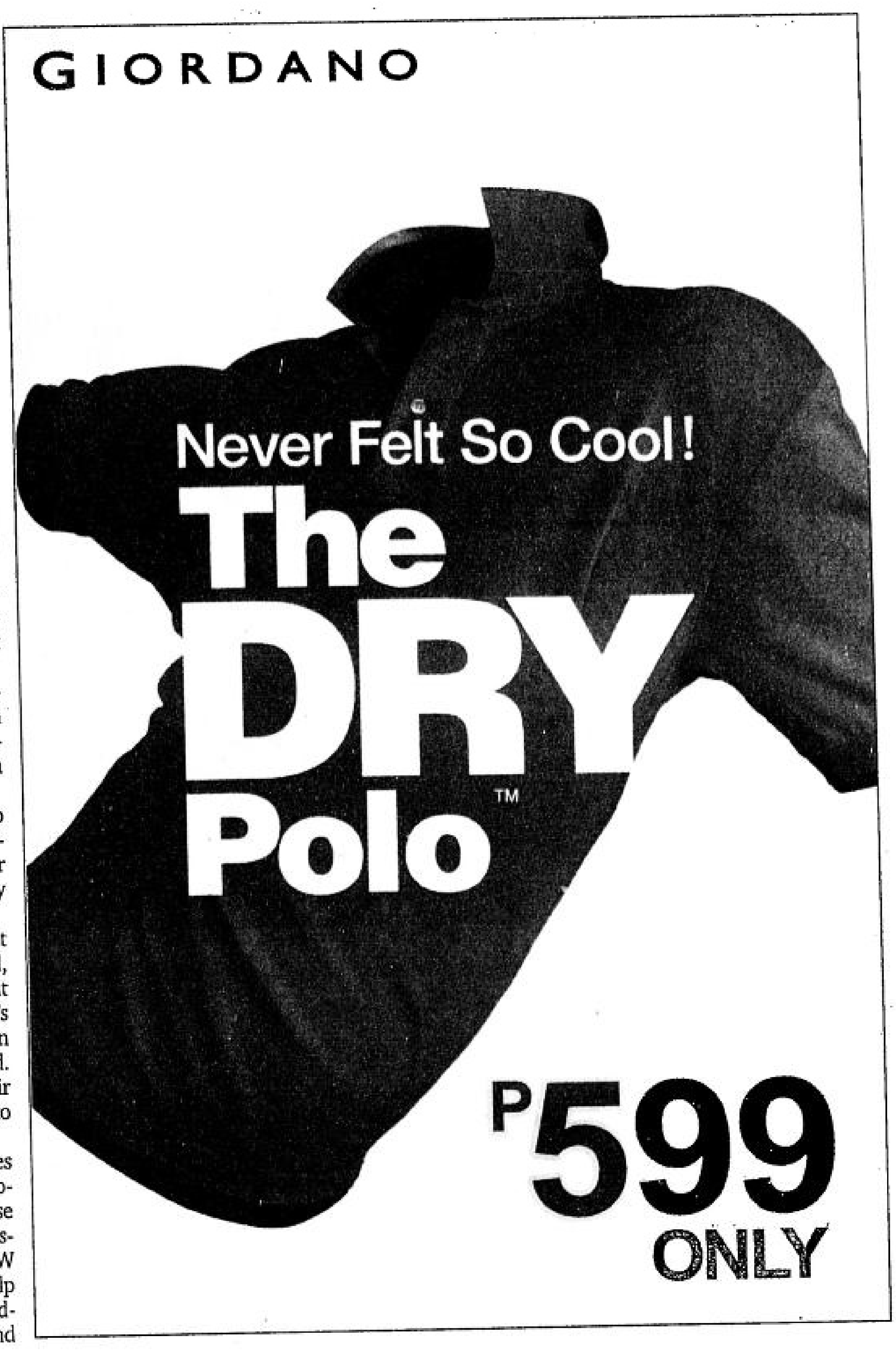
For formal occasions, CMGlam is the place to go for exquisite evening wear. There are flowing gowns and dresses with lace trimmings or bead details. Styles are of course limited to only two or three apiece.

But what's a great dress without standout shoes to complete the look? Seeing the need, Ramos invited new shoe brand Hotwind to put up their first mall outlet at Crossings. Yes, it's the same hot Shanghai-based shoe label in Gamboa Street where Nail Spa is located. Branching out in a mall now makes their uniquely styled footwear more accessible to shoeholics.

Don't expect department-store prices though. The Ramp is actually a great compromise between designer boutiques and in-house mall labels. With designers who lend their distinct styles but know how to cater to the RTW market, Ramos believes The Ramp will help fashionistas achieve their ultimate goal of finding that elusive outfit with a feel of couture and worth their every peso.

UNITED Pop

SEVEN Dials
ROMY HOMILLADA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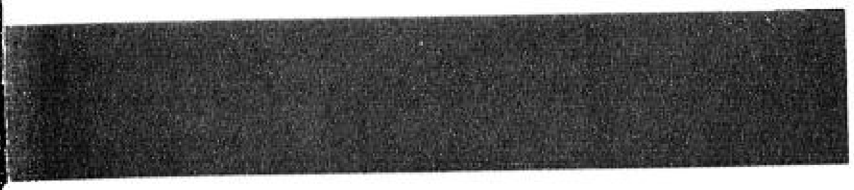


steer Lacoste's new look.

The company is careful not to make the same mistakes made by its previous US licensee; it is keen on keeping its high-end appeal. Lacoste polos retail locally for over P3,000, or up to $72 in the US.

"We're a family-owned company which means we want to do quality goods," Lacoste explains. "It bears our name and the logo of my grandfather. If you think about that you have to be careful. I don't know how we could do business in a different way."

Lacoste jested this visit was probably his 112th time in the Philippines. But unlike his previous trips, his purpose this time was more than just business.

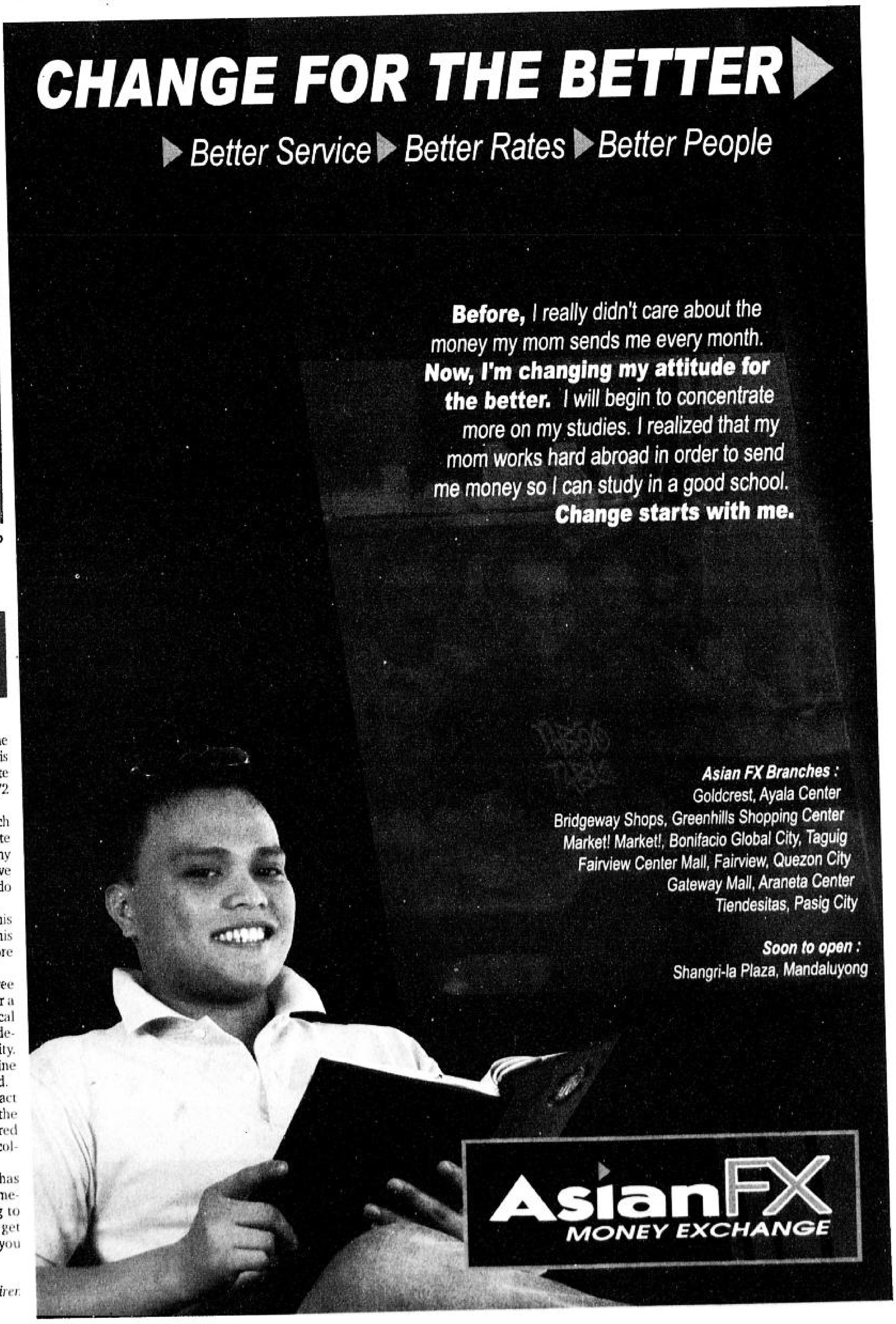
The 12.12 Project was launched three years ago in Paris, and has been held in over a dozen key cities in the world. It invites local VIPs and movers from various sectors to design a 12.12 shirt to be auctioned for charity. The beneficiary this time was the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra's Instruments Fund.

Lacoste, who had said he liked the abstract design of National Artist Arturo Luz, won the bid for architect Lor Calma's shirt-covered chair. It will be sent to Paris to be part of a collection of 12.12 creations.

"If you're an international brand which has been successful, you must try to give something back," Lacoste said. "It's interesting to see other people's vision of your brand, to get ideas from an external eye. They give you feedback."

E-mail the author at cmoral@inquirer.com.ph

ueva


CHANGE FOR THE BETTER
Better Service Better Rates Better People

Before, I really didn't care about the money my mom sends me every month. **Now, I'm changing my attitude for the better.** I will begin to concentrate more on my studies. I realized that my mom works hard abroad in order to send me money so I can study in a good school. **Change starts with me.**

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Bridgeway Shops, Greenhills Shopping Center
Market! Market!, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig
Fairview Center Mall, Fairview, Quezon City
Gateway Mall, Araneta Center
Tiendesitas, Pasig City

Soon to open :
Shangri-la Plaza, Mandaluyong

AsianFX
MONEY EXCHANGE

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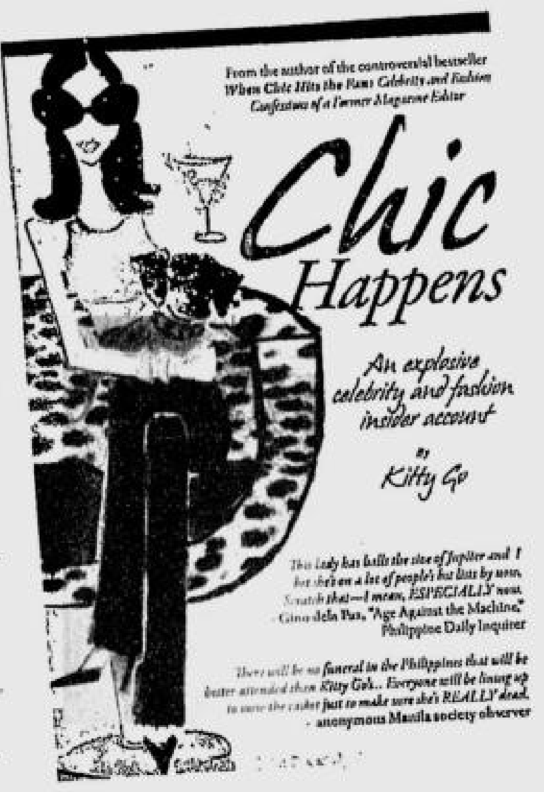

From the author of the controversial bestseller
When Chic Hits the Fans: Celebrity and Fashion Confessions of a Former Magazine Editor
Chic Happens
An explosive celebrity and fashion insider account
By Kitty Go

This lady has balls the size of Jupiter and I bet she's on a lot of people's hit lists by now. Scratch that—I mean, ESPECIALLY now.
- Gina dela Paz, "Age Against the Machine," Philippine Daily Inquirer

There will be no funeral in the Philippines that will be better attended than Kitty Go's... Everyone will be lining up to view the casket just to make sure she's REALLY dead.
- anonymous Manila society observer

Explosive tell-all sequel

ANOTHER FICTIONAL TELL-ALL FROM THE controversial former publisher Kitty Go is out just in time for bitching under the mistletoe.

"Chic Happens: An Explosive Celebrity and Fashion Insider Account" is Go's second attempt at fictionalizing gossip, leaving readers guessing the true identities of this novel's characters.

Nobody can make you laugh at celebrities and fashion victims like Go can. As the jacket of her new book says, "Her humorous prose will keep you gossiping till you find the perfect pair of jeans, and laughing till your waterproof mascara runs."

Nobody does it better because no one else has dared challenge society's reverence for celebrities, socialites and fashion editors.

The uniqueness of this second novel lies in its format, a novella within a novel. In it, Giselle Cordero returns to her hometown of Manila after having written a controversial novella that has made her a social pariah. This second novel, in a similar fast-paced, gossipy tone as the first, is a glaring allusion to Go's personal experience after she published her first novel, "When Chic Hits the Fan: Celebrity and Fashion Confessions of a Magazine Editor."

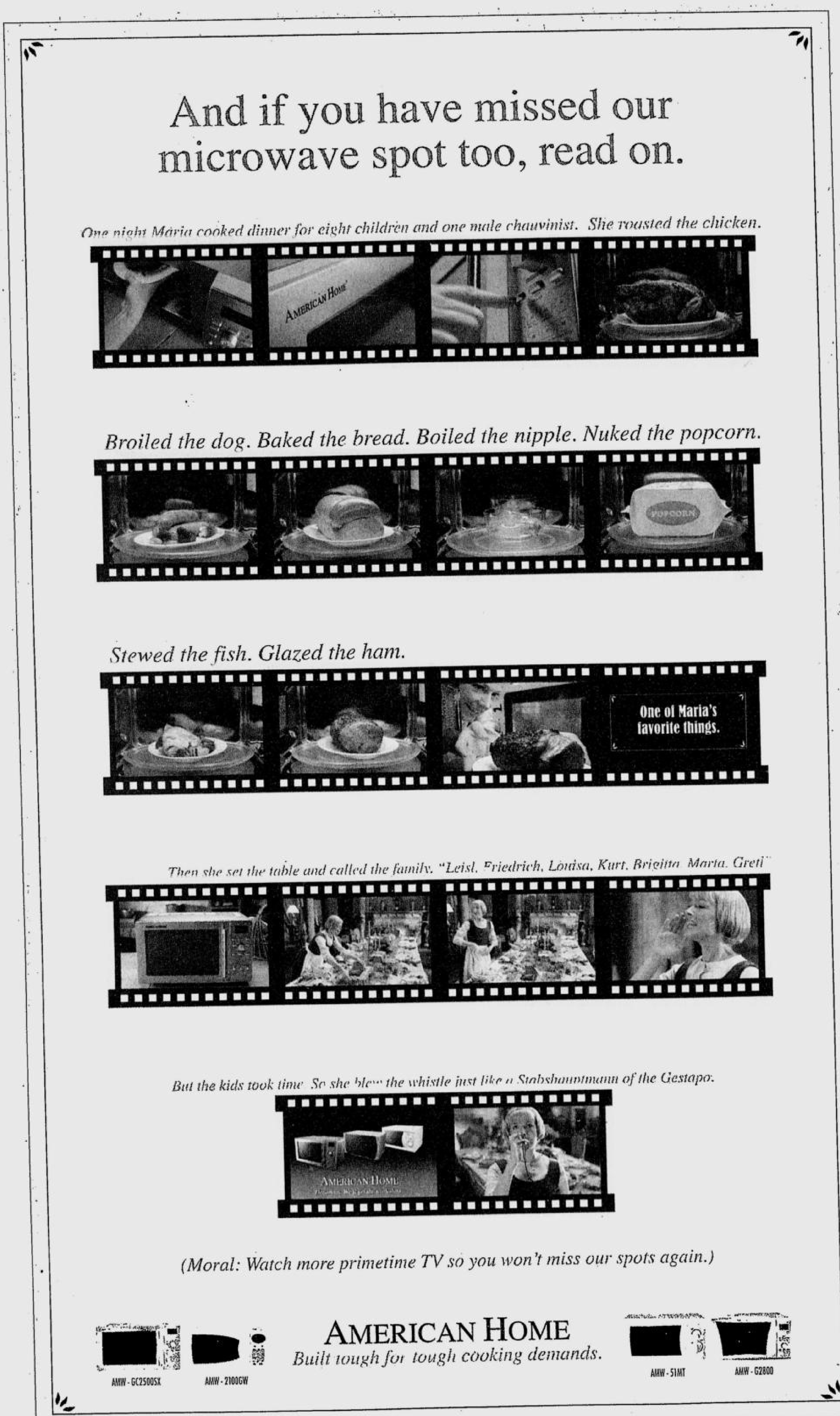
Snippets of the novella appear within the novel and, like the first book, the fictional novella has even more blind items about the hapless main characters in her first novel.

Readers of "Chic Happens" who have not read "When Chic Hits the Fan" will still enjoy the stiletto-sharp wisecracks and vivid descriptions of very public personalities at recent events. Despite Go's insistence that the book is fiction, readers cannot help but try to guess who the personalities are as they read through this short paperback.

This second book is funnier and more down-to-earth than the first, with considerably less designer names being dropped. (But there is still plenty for fashionistas to consider). New characters such as model-turned-wedding-planner Lally Alimurong, swindling show director Anselmo Lorinda, social identity thief Ursula Bitanga-Mueller, lesbian-jailbird-God-fearing fashion editor Ylena Sandico, and social desperado retail couple Torino and Ruthie Ann Campos merely add gasoline to the already large society brushfire that has been burning since Go released her first book in May.

If there is anything that people will be talking about this Christmas, it will be "Chic Happens: An Explosive Celebrity and Fashion Insider Account." If it doesn't warm you with laughter, at least you know there's going to be fireworks lit under some Manolo-clad feet this New Year.

"Chic Happens!" retails for P265 at selected National Bookstores, PowerBooks and Oh Georg! in Cebu. E-mail loudmouthtwn@yahoo.com.tw


And if you have missed our microwave spot too, read on.

One night Maria cooked dinner for eight children and one male chauvinist. She roasted the chicken.

Broiled the dog. Baked the bread. Boiled the nipple. Nuked the popcorn.

Stewed the fish. Glazed the ham.

One of Maria's favorite things.

Then she set the table and called the family. "Leisl, Friedrich, Louisa, Kurt, Brigitta, Marta, Gretl"

But the kids took time. So she blew the whistle just like a Stabshauptmann of the Gestapo.

(Moral: Watch more primetime TV so you won't miss our spots again.)

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MARIA SHARAPOVA
Wimbledon Champion

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Health and Beauty Awards 2005

CONGRATULATIONS!

Honoring the Best in the Health and Personal Care Industries

HEALTH CARE AWARDS	WINNER	OTHER NOMINEES
SUPPLIER OF THE YEAR	UNITED LABORATORIES	
Best Promoted OTC Brand	CENTRUM - Wyeth Consumer Healthcare	Caltrate Plus - Wyeth Consumer Healthcare; Rogin-E - Bayer Healthcare
Best Health Information Campaign	RED CAMPAIGN - Abbott Laboratories	Stilnox - Sanofi; RED Campaign - Abbott Laboratories; Heartcare Club - GlaxoSmithKline
New Supplier Partner of the Year	HERBS AND NATURE	Better Herbs ;Biolink Pharma
Best In-Store Promo Activity	REGROE - JLC Miller	Calci-Aid - Bayer Healthcare ; Squalene - Issho-Genki
Most Creative In-Store Activity	MOTILIUM - Janssen Pharmaceutica	Regroe - JLC Miller ; Squalene - Issho-Genki
Most Improved Sales Performance	INTERMED MARKETING CORPORATION	Macropharma ; United Laboratories
Key Account Management of the Year	ROBERT ELADIO - Metro Drug	Alvy Posadas - United Laboratories ; Luisito Ordonez - Zuellig
Promotions Partner of the Year	UNITED LABORATORIES	Wyeth Consumer Healthcare ; Abbott Laboratories
Best in Store Opening Support	WYETH CONSUMER HEALTHCARE	Abbott Laboratories ; Pascual Laboratories
Best In Service Level - Health Care	WYETH CONSUMER HEALTHCARE	Abbott Laboratories ; United Laboratories

PERSONAL CARE AWARDS	WINNER	OTHER NOMINEES
SUPPLIER OF THE YEAR	UNILEVER	
PHILIPPINE SUPPLIER OF THE YEAR	SPLASH	
New Supplier Partner of the Year	PEPSI COLA PRODUCTS INC.	Kimberly Clark Corporation ; Rustans Commercial Corporation
Most Improved Sales Performance	KIMBERLY CLARK CORPORATION	L'Oreal ; Colgate Palmolive
Key Account Management of the Year	MARIAN COLLAGA-representing Rustans Marketing Corp	Bambi Panlilio - GlaxoSmithKline ; Jacqueline Tung - Colgate-Palmolive
Most Improved Service Level	L'Oreal	Unilever ; IDS
Best In-Store Display	DOVE CAMPAIGN FOR REAL BEAUTY - Unilever	Nivea Summer Campaign - Distributed by McKenzie ; Sunsilk Strength and Shine Campaign - By Unilever
Best Mall Animation	WELLA HAIR COLORANT - Rustans Marketing Corporation	Arcor Samba - Resourceful ; Escada Del Rio - Rustans Commercial Corp
Cosmetics Consignor of the Year	REVLON - Le Becarre	Maybelline - By L'Oreal ; VMV - By Skin Prescriptives
Fragrance Consignor of the Year	RUSTANS MARKETING CORPORATION	Prestige ; Luxasia
Skin Care Brand of the Year Popular Line	ST. IVES - distributed by Grand Dragon	Lander - distributed by Unisell ; Nivea - distributed by McKenzie
Skin Care Brand of the Year Mid Range Line	DERMOEXPERTISE / PLENITUDE - L'Oreal	Revlon Vitamin C - distributed by Le Becarre ; VMV Glykeros - by Skin Prescriptives
Skin Care Brand of the Year Premium Line	KANEBO BLANCHIR - Distributed by Kanefil	Shiseido White Lucent-Distributed by Luxasia ; Elizabeth Arden Ceramide -Distributed by Rustans Marketing Corp.
Cosmetics Brand of the Year Popular Line	EVER BILENA - DSS Trading	Aido - St. Essence ; Nichido - Jemica
Cosmetics Brand of the Year Mid Range Line	VMV- Skin Prescriptives	Caring Colors - KGM ; VMV - Skin Prescriptives ; Maybelline - L'Oreal
Cosmetics Brand of the Year Premium Line	SHISEIDO - distributed by Luxasia	Kanebo - Distributed by Kanefil ; Elizabeth Arden - Distributed by Rustans Marketing Corp.
Confectionery Supplier of the Year	RESOURCEFUL INTERNATIONAL-Arcor, Trolli and Lifesavers	Distributor of Hershey's - McKenzie Distribution ; Distributor of Cadbury-Adams and Van Melle
Men's Grooming Brand of the Year	GILLETTE - Distributed by by IDS	Nivea Men's Line - Distributed by McKenzie Distribution ; Master Eskinol - Distributed by Sara Lee
Best In Service Level - Personal Care	PROCTER & GAMBLE	L'Oreal ; Unilever
Promotions Partner of the Year - Personal Care	COLGATE PALMOLIVE	Unilever ; Johnson & Johnson
Best In Store Product Launch - Personal Care	NEUTROGENA FINE FAIRNESS MASK - Johnson & Johnson	Pantene Leave On Conditioner - Procter & Gamble ; Sunsilk Kiwi - Unilever

Watsons
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SUPPLIER of the Year
(Personal Care)
UNILEVER Philippines

NIGEL Healey
with Manuel Sua,
President of
UNISELL

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Health and Beauty Awards 2005

Watsons honors retail partners

By Joel V. Nigos

"WATSONS MADE US FEEL REALLY IMPORTANT TONIGHT."

Such comment made by a group coming from one of Watsons' retail partners may sum up the mood during "Watsons Health and Beauty Awards" held recently.

Happy and glittering faces as bright as the Watsons' color theme were all over.

Who would not be? As awardees and partners in the business, they were recognized by Watsons for their efforts in helping the authority in health and beauty care drive its business forward.

Watsons handing out health and beauty awards has been a tradition for the company. Starting in Hong Kong and Taiwan, the health and beauty firm has been rewarding its retail partners for more than 10 years. It has done so for the past few years in Singapore and Malaysia eventually sharing the practice in all the markets that they cover.

This year was the first time for Watsons Philippines. Although the company has been in the Philippines for three years, the company took the time to assess its retail partners and gain a better understanding of the market. Honorees were rewarded primarily on the basis of sales performance, innovation, support for store openings and promtions, product launches and a retailer's service level.

Quite a few awards in various categories were given - some of which were as specific as Multivitamin of the Year award in the Health Care Category, Shampoo Brand of the Year or Premium Men's Fragrance of the Year awards in the Personal Care Category. The basis of these specific product awards was the sales volume which the specific brand had generated for Watsons.

Award categories were also classified in such a way that products would be recognized in their respective category and industry levels.

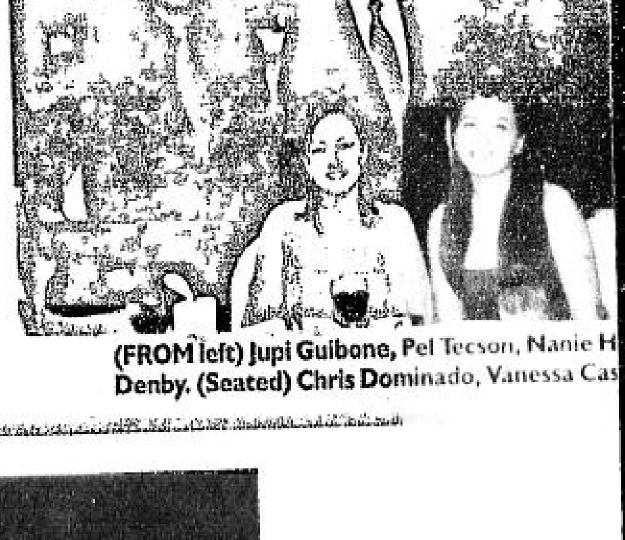
The most coveted were the Watsons plum awards - the Supplier of the Year Award, one each for the Health and Beauty categories. In recognizing the contributions of Filipino suppliers, a grand award for the Philippine Supplier of the Year was also handed out. In giving the grand awards, Watsons took into account the following key factors - the sales performance, the service level, advertising and promotions support, new product launches and sales growth. At the very least, the awards provided by Watsons were proof of consumer reaction as proven by the sales performance of the products in the stores.

In the end, three companies took home the bacon for doing their homework. The Philippine Supplier of the Year (Personal Care) award went to Splash Corp., the Supplier of the Year (Personal Care) award for Unilever Philippines Inc. and the Supplier of the Years (Health Care) award for United Laboratories.

Watsons Personal Care Store is the health and beauty chain of A.S. Watsons, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Hong Kong-based Hutchison Whampoa Ltd. The group operates a total of 14 retail brands with over 4,800 stores in health and beauty, food, electronics and general merchandise, airport duty-free items, and beverages including bottled water.

In the Philippines, Watsons was established in 2002 and now operates 130 stores in partnership with SM.

> The awards provided by Watsons were primarily based on consumer reaction. It looked at specific types of partnership it believes were key to driving sales forward.



(FROM left) Jupi Guibone, Pel Tecson, Nanie H
Denby. (Seated) Chris Dominado, Vanessa Cas

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SUPPLIER of the Year (Personal Care) UNILEVER Philippines

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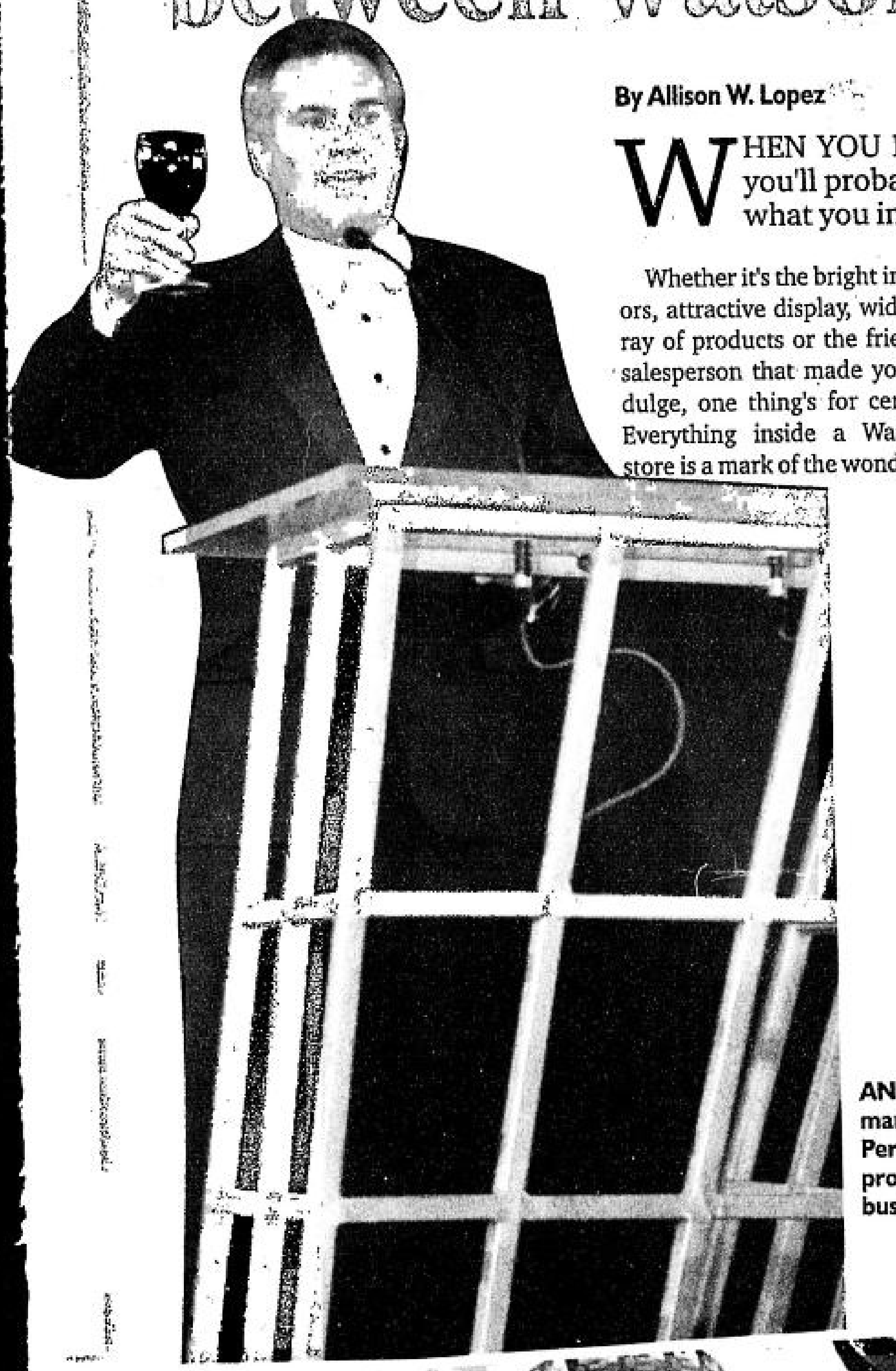
Awards highlight partnership between Watsons, retailers



ANDREW Denby, general manager of Watsons Personal Care Philippines, proposes a toast "for more business ahead".

By Allison W. Lopez

WHEN YOU ENTER A WATSONS STORE, you'll probably end up buying more than what you intended.

Whether it's the bright interiors, attractive display, wide array of products or the friendly salesperson that made you indulge, one thing's for certain: Everything inside a Watsons store is a mark of the wonderful partnership it has with its suppliers.

An authority on health and beauty products, Watsons believes a healthy relationship with its suppliers is key to delivering their promise to shoppers. "We are a personal care store offering products toward health, beauty and fun," says Robert Sun, Watsons merchandising director. "We make sure our products have our seal of guarantee, that they are value-providing products," he says.

As merchandising director, Sun is in charge of the overall management of products that Watsons sells. The merchandising team ensures that the shelves are filled with the right products that have the right price-everything a shopper would need for his or her well being.

However, Watsons knows it is not alone in delivering this promise of an ultimate shopping experience to shoppers. This is why the company wants to give recognition where it's due. Through the Health and Beauty Awards, Watsons trains the spotlight on the suppliers that have performed well. It's also Watsons' way of making their suppliers feel important by applauding their efforts.

"The Health and Beauty Awards highlights the special relationship between us and our partners," says Sun. In this annual affair, Watsons gave around 100 awards-so specific so their partners would know where they excel, and also where they need to shape up.

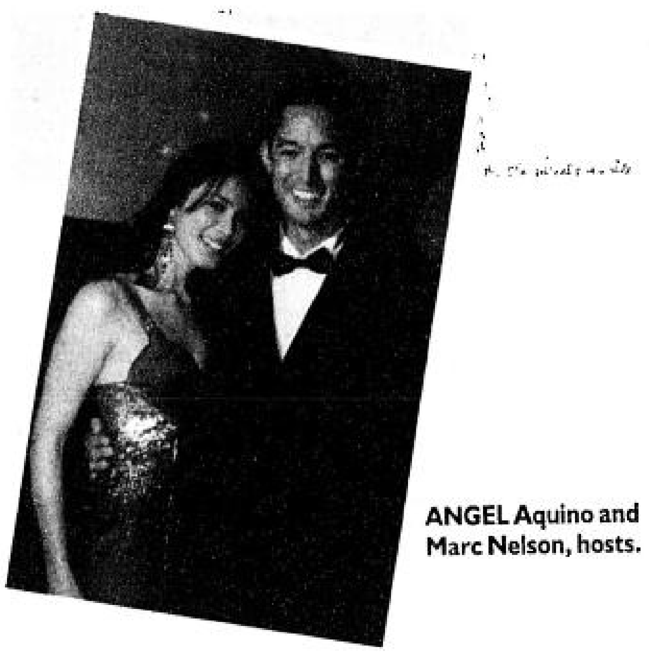
Sun says the awards are based on certain key performance drivers such as sales performance, product availability and display, promos, and mall activities. Working with more than 200 suppliers can be tricky, so by giving various categories, Watsons helps them to know what's important for the shoppers.

"In order for us to help our partners, we have to develop 'partner consciousness' by being very transparent to them. Through the awards, we are letting them know the important drivers of success which will benefit both parties," says Sun.

Shoppers' needs are revealed through surveys conducted by Watsons' team and the personnel whom they interact with regularly. "It's all about how we can make our shoppers come back to our stores," he adds.

From mid November until December 31, winning products will enjoy a prominent display in all Watson stores. A full-color catalogue containing all health and beauty awardees is also in the works. This way, even the shoppers would know what products and companies have excelled.

Watsons now has 130 stores and aims to reach 140 by year's end, and it knows that it's vital for a fast-growing company to reach out to their suppliers. The Health and Beauty Awards will no doubt encourage their partners to take a more active role in delivering quality service to shoppers. In the end, a strong working partnership between the two will benefit the consumers as well.



ANGEL Aquino and Marc Nelson, hosts.

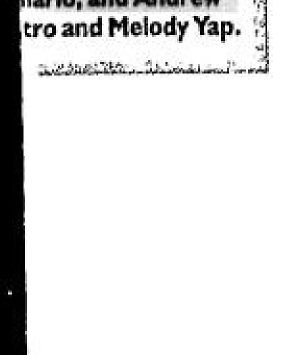
The Health and Beauty Awards highlights the special relationship between Watsons and its partners

OTHER HEALTH CARE AWARDS

AWARDS	WINNER	OTHER NOMINEES
Multivitamin of the Year	Centrum - Wyeth Consumer Healthcare	Stress Tabs/Wyeth Consumer Healthcare and Enervon-C/United Laboratories
Vitamin C of the Year	UHP- United Laboratories	Cecon/Abbot and Poten-C/Pascual Laboratories
Vitamin E of the Year	Myra 400 - United Laboratories	Squibb/Bristol Myers Squibb
Calcium Supplement of the Year	Caltrate - Wyeth Consumer Healthcare	Calci-Aid/Bayer and UHP-Calactate/UHP-United Laboratories
Children's Vitamins of the Year	Cherifer - Intermed Marketing Phils.	Kiddie-Pharmaton/Boehringer-Ingelheim
Analgesic of the Year	Tempra-Bristol Myers Squibb	Biogesic/United Laboratories and Ponstan 250/Pfizer Inc.
Cough Remedy of the Year	Solmux-United Laboratories	Robitussin/Wyeth Consumer Healthcare, Tuseran/United Laboratories
Cold Remedy of the Year	Neozep-United Laboratories	Decolgen/United Laboratories, Sinutab/Pfizer
OTC Family Planning Aid of the Year	Trust-DKT	Frenzy/DKT, Okamoto/Dale Starr
Ethical Family Planning Aid of the Year	Diane 35-Schering Philippines	Trust Pill/DKT, Yasmin/Schering Philippines
Infant Milk Formula of the Year	Similac - Abbott Laboratories	Enfalac - Mead Johnson, Nan1-Nestle
Follow on Milk of the Year	Gain - Abbott Laboratories	Promil - Wyeth Consumer Healthcare, Nan2- Nestle
Growing Up Milk of the Year	Nido - Nestle	Lactum - Mead Johnson
Lozenge Brand of the Year	Strepsils-Boots Phils.	Dequadin/GlaxoSmithkline Consumer Health, Fisherman's Friend -Sysu
Medical Equipment Brand of the Year	One Touch-Johnson and Johnson	Omron/Collins, Blue Cross/Philippine Blue Cross Corporation
Anti-Hypertensive Brand of the Year	Neobloc - GX Pharma	Plendil/Astra Zeneca, Norvasc-Pfizer
Anti-Asthma Brand of the Year	Ventolin- GlaxoSmithkline	Combivent/Boehringer-Ingelheim, Seretide - GlaxoSmithkline
Anti-Diabetes Brand of the Year	Glucophage-Merck	Diamicron/Servier
Health Supplement Brand of the Year	ABS- ABS-Gen Herbs International Corp.	Circulan-Macro Pharma
Slimming Tea Brand of the Year	Kankunis - Diamond Laboratories	Kankura/Diamond Laboratories,ABS Tea/ABS Gen Herbs International Corp.
Anti-Obesity Brand of the Year	Xenical-Roche	Fitrum/Herbs and Nature, Reductil-Abbott Laboratories
Antihistamine Brand of the Year	Virlix - GlaxoSmithkline	Claritin/Schering Plough, Zyrtec/UCB
Antibacterial Brand of the Year	Amoxicillin (Ritemed) by United Laboratories	Augmentin/GlaxoSmithkline, Amox/Pharex

OTHER PERSONAL CARE AWARDS

AWARDS	WINNER	OTHER NOMINEES
Shampoo Brand of the Year	Pantene - Procter and Gamble	Sunsilk - Unilever, Palmolive - Colgate Palmolive
Conditioner Brand of the Year	Cream Silk - Unilever	Pantene - Procter & Gamble, Palmolive - Colgate Palmolive
Hair Styling Brand of the Year	Gatsby - Mandom	Tricks - Splash, Citre Shine - Rustans Marketing Corporation
Facial Wash Brand of the Year	Cetaphil - Getz Bros.	Celeteque - Unilab, Neutrogena - Johnson and Johnson
Astringent Brand of the Year	Eskinol-Sara Lee	Nivea - McKenzie, Neutrogena - Johnson and Johnson
Moisturizer Brand of the Year	Celeteque - United Laboratories	L'Oreal Plenitude-L'Oreal, Nivea-McKenzie, Neutrogena - Johnson & Johnson
Body Lotion Brand of the Year	Jergens - Oriana Manufacturing	Lander - Unisell, St. Ives - Grand Dragon
Bath Soap Brand of the Year	Kissa - So Nice	Likas - Trinidad, Rica - Rica Peralejo
Feminine Hygiene Brand of the Year	Lactacyd - Sanofi Synthelabo	PH Care - United Laboratories, Carefree - Johnson & Johnson
Beverage Brand of the Year	(Water)Absolute - Absolute Sales Corporation, (Soda) Coca-Cola - San Miguel Corporation,(Ready to Drink) Nestle Milk RTD - Nestle	
Snack Brand of the Year	Oishi-Liwayway	Jack & Jill - Universal Robina Corp., Lay's Potato Chips-Benby Enterprise
Confectionery - Chocolate Brand of the Year	Hershey's-Quantum	Cadbury-McKenzie, M&M-Diethelm
Sanitary Protection Brand of the Year	Modess - Johnson and Johnson	Newtex-Kimberly Clark Corp, Kotex-Kimberly Clark Corp.
Premium Women's Fragrance Brand of the Year	Lanvin Eclat-Luxasia	RL Classic-L'Oreal, Carolina Herrera-Rustans Marketing Corp.
Premium Men's Fragrance Brand of the Year	Hugo Boss-Rustans Marketing Corporation	Polo-L'Oreal, Bulgari-Luxasia
Acne Solution Brand of the Year	Proactiv-Taps	Clearasil - Getz Bros.
Baby Diaper Brand of the Year	EQ-JS Unitrade	Pampers-Procter & Gamble, Huggies-Kimberly Clark Inc.
Deodorant Brand of the Year	Rexona-Unilever	Secret-Procter & Gamble, Nivea-McKenzie
Cologne Brand of the Year	Ellips-KGM	Johnson and Johnson by Johnson & Johnson, Bench - Suyen Inc.
Footcare Brand of the Year	Freeman - Unisell	Dr. Scholl - Philusa, Titania- Philstar



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tro and Melody Yap.

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Health and Beauty Awards 2005

A HIGH-flying opening for Watsons' first-ever Health and Beauty Awards.

FROM Unilever: (From left) Francis Rodriguez, Ayra Magtibay, Jay Go, Jane Baluya, Daisy Yu, Mariecon Baluyut, Howard Belton, Cherie Haw and Francis Flores.

RACHEL Alejandro sang a medley of love songs

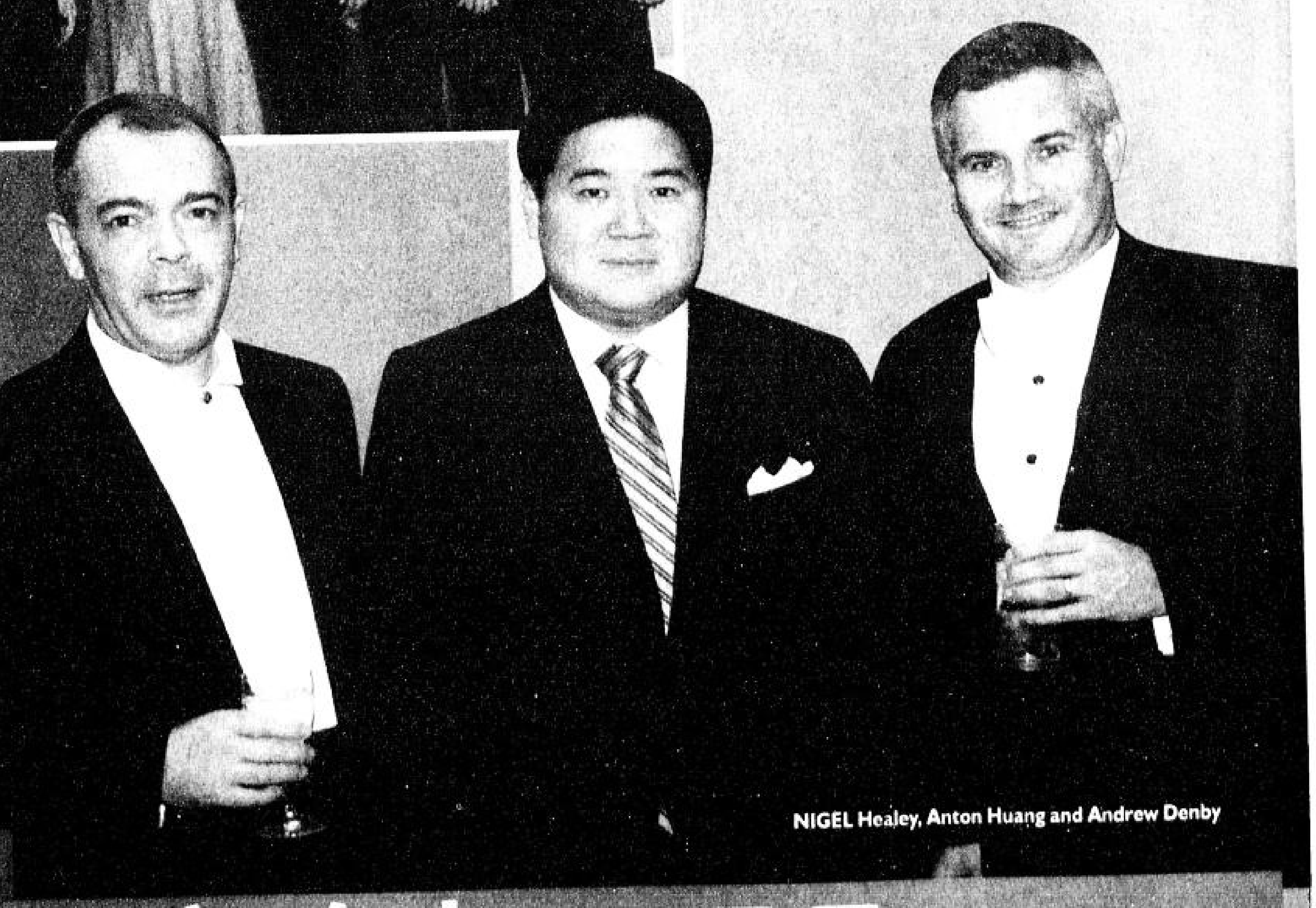
(FROM left) Rafael Lim, Gary Mendoza, Nigel Healey, Bart Caron (behind), Ebe Monzon, Mel Garcia, Cy Urbano and Tessie Sy-Coson

BEAUTY Authority, Fanny Serrano

Through the Health and Beauty Awards Watsons trains the spotlight on the suppliers that have performed well

ANDREW Denby and Stanley Perez are joined by winners from Unilab (second from left) Greg Martin, Alvy Jean Posadas, Neil Arcadio and Allan Cordero

(FROM left) Wowie Grey, Joal Tamayo, Nilo Chincuanco, Marianne Dy, Cesar Dy, Oliver Dy and Angel Techico



NIGEL Healey, Anton Huang and Andrew Denby

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* Watsons thanks Kodak.